

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 38

14p

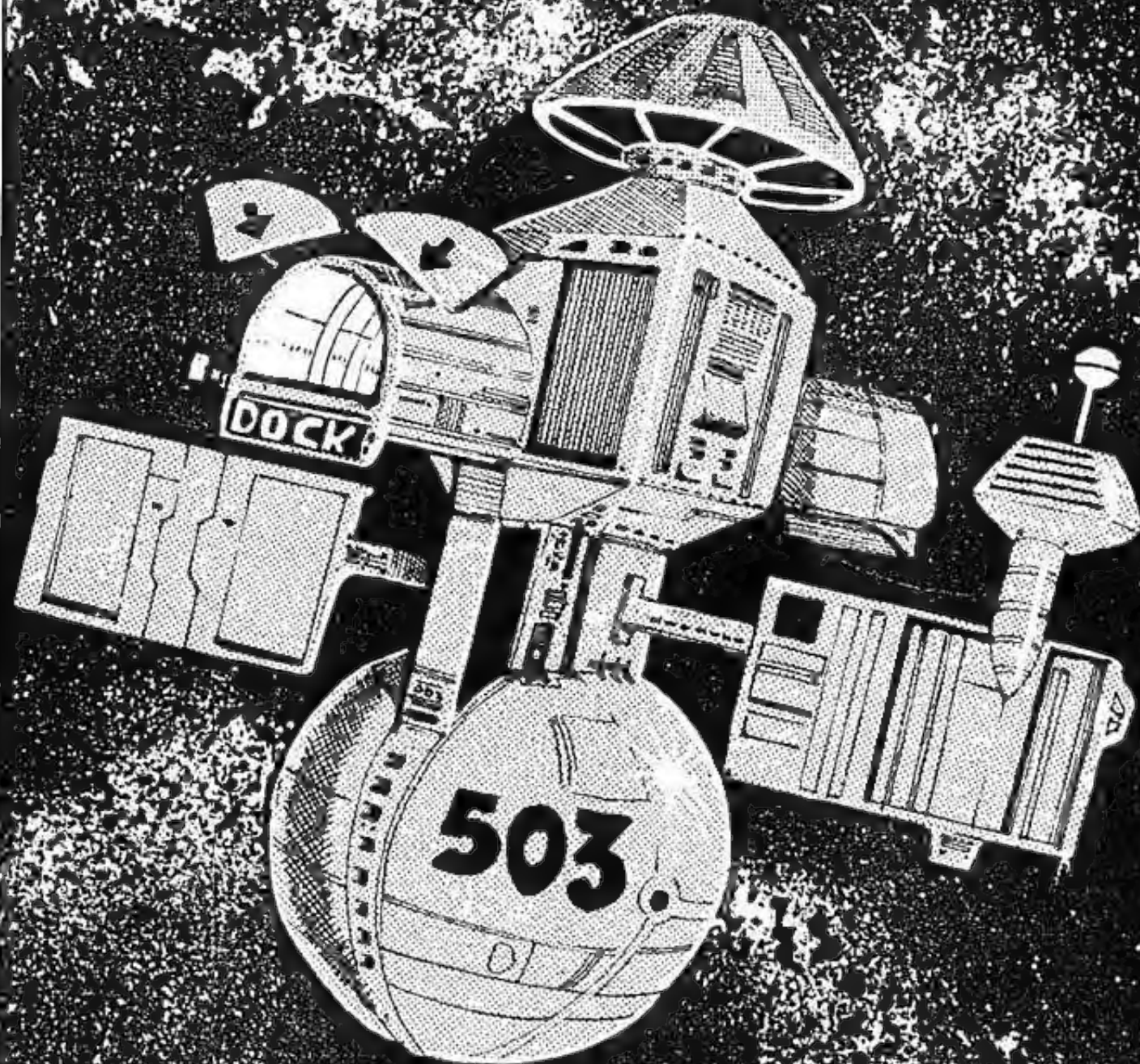
The SLIDS of DOOM

STARBLAZER

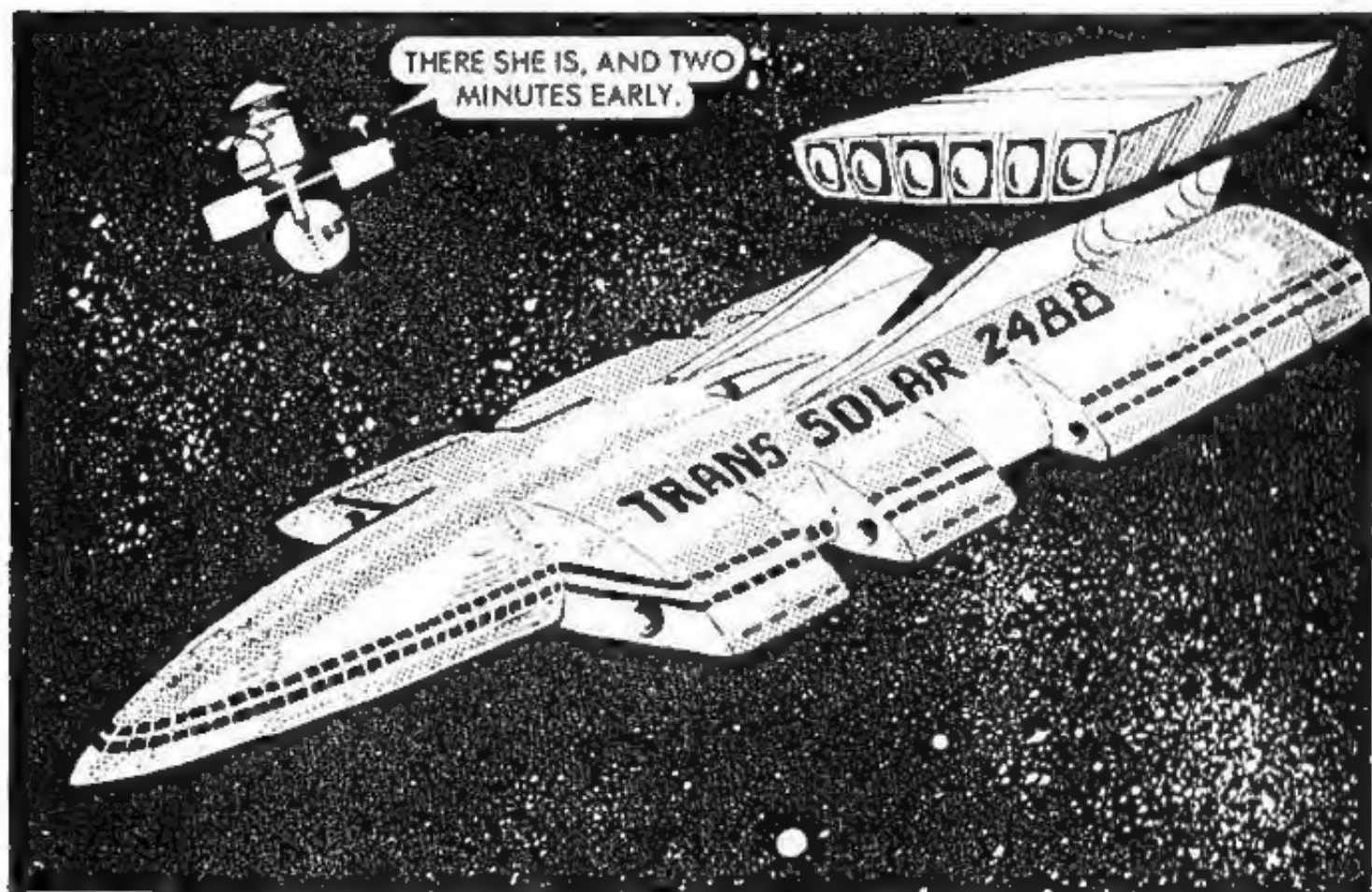


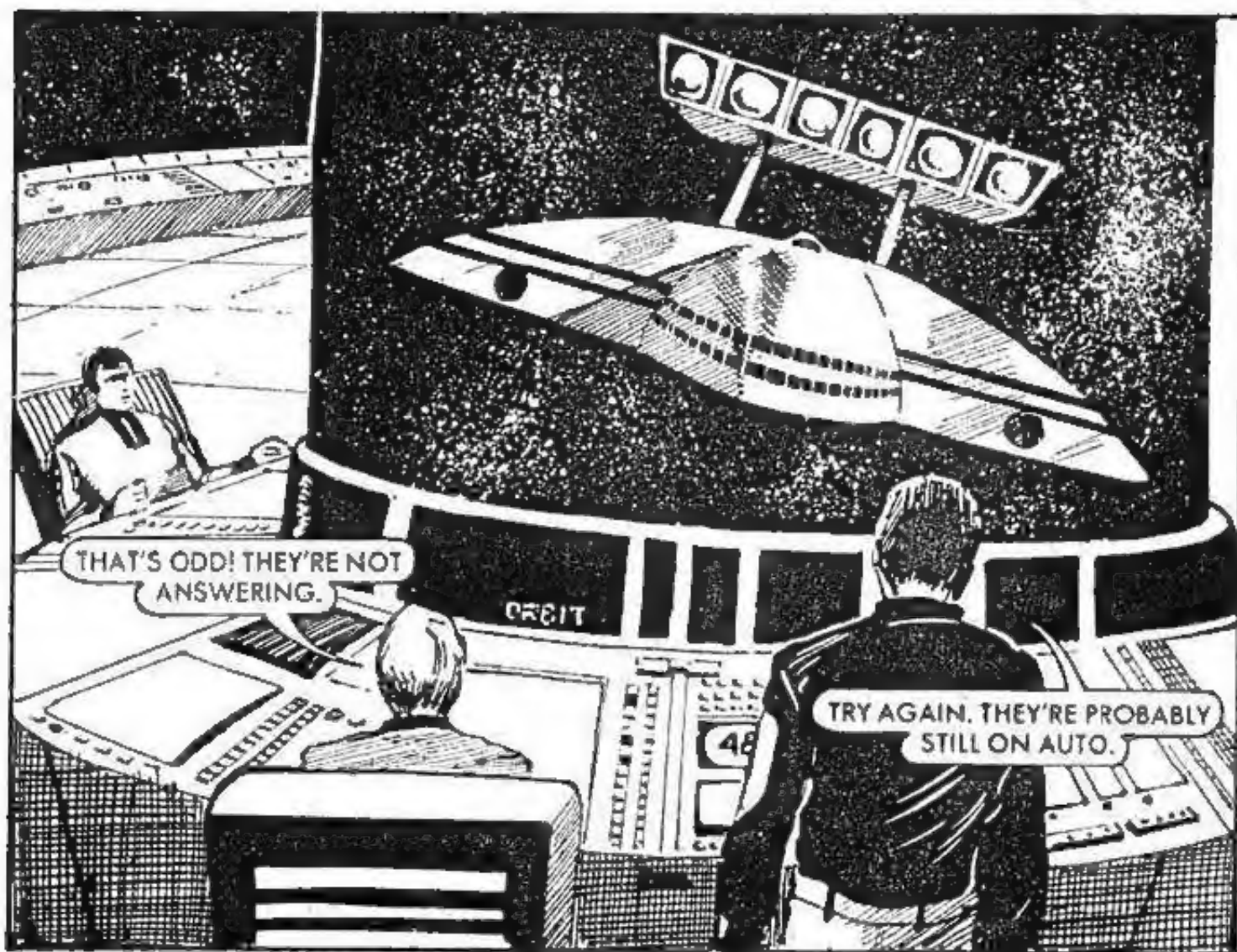
THE
GREATEST
SPIN-OFF FROM
SPACE EXPLORATION WAS
IN THE MEDICAL FIELD. NEW
BENEFICIAL BACTERIA WERE
DISCOVERED IN FAR PLANETS,
AND WITH THEIR HELP ALL KNOWN
DISEASES WERE ELIMINATED. SO
WITH NO NEED TO BUILD UP A
NATURAL RESISTANCE TO DISEASE
THE BODIES OF PEOPLE OF ALL
RACES WERE EASILY INFECTED
WHEN A NEW KILLER VIRUS
WAS UNLEASHED. BUT WHO
HAD LET LOOSE THE
SEEDS OF DOOM?

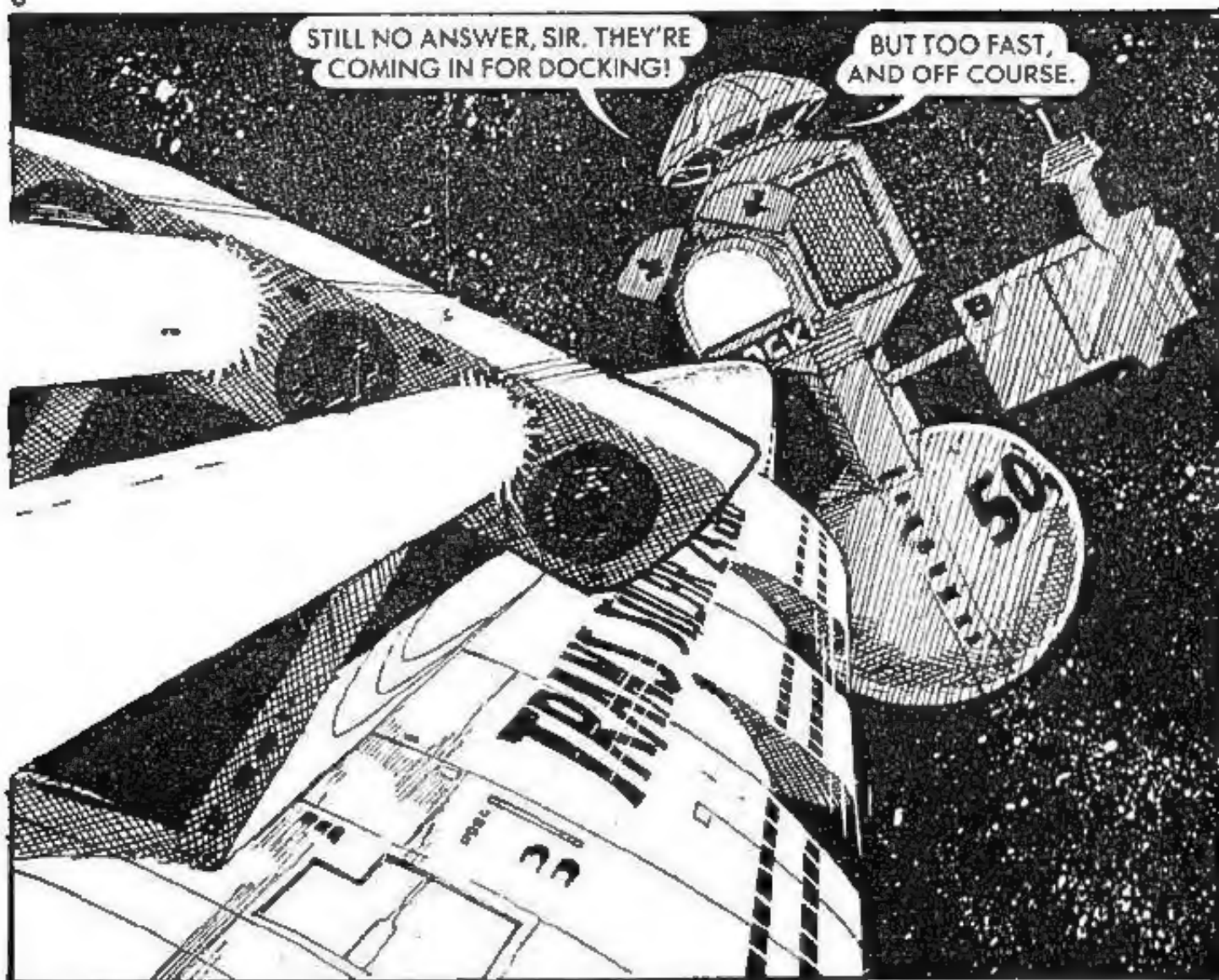
The Seeds of Doom



FAR OUT IN SPACE WAS THE CROSSWAYS COSMOPORT. HERE TRAVELLERS CHANGED SHIPS ON THE INTER-GALACTIC SPACE ROUTES. NEXT SHIP IN WAS TRANS SOLAR FLIGHT 2488. FIVE WEEKS OUT FROM STYGIA 4.







BEFORE THE ALARMS COULD RING, THE LINER PLOUGHED INTO THE PORT



DAMAGE REPORT!

SHE'S WRECKED THE PASSENGER TRANSIT QUARTERS
BUT THE PORT'S STILL 60% FUNCTIONAL!



GET THE WRECKING CREWS BUSY. FIND
OUT WHAT'S UP WITH THAT LINER
CAPTAIN!



THE WRECKING CREW FORCED THEIR WAY TO THE BRIDGE OF THE LINER.

THEY'RE ALL DEAD!

AND THE CRASH DIDN'T KILL THEM!

NOT ONE OF THE THOUSAND PASSENGERS AND CREW WAS ALIVE.

THEY'VE BEEN DEAD FOR A COUPLE
OF WEEKS, SIR! LOOKS AS IF
THEY'VE ALL DIED OF PLAGUE!



BE SPECIFIC, MAN! NO ONE IN THE GALAXY HAS DIED OF ANY DISEASE FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS — WE'RE IMMUNE TO EVERYTHING!

THEY'VE GOT EVERYTHING! THERE ARE EARTHMEN WITH BUBONIC PLAGUE, SMALLPOX — KYREANS WITH BLACK ROT...

MEDIC

THERE ARE FORTY OR SO DIFFERENT RACES ON BOARD AND THEY'VE ALL DIED OF DIFFERENT DISEASES!






CALLING THE GALACTIC INVESTIGATION
AGENCY




WE READ YOUR PROBLEM, PLEASE
SUPPLY ALL AVAILABLE DATA





ACCORDING TO THE LINER'S FLIGHT LOG
THE ONLY THING OUT THERE WAS A
FREIGHTER — BUT THE NEAREST THAT
CAME TO IT WAS A LIGHT YEAR AWAY!

THE FREIGHTER COULD HAVE NOTICED
SOMETHING. WE'LL INVESTIGATE IT BEFORE THE
TRAIL GETS COLD AND LEAVE THE LINER TO OUR
TECHNICAL BOYS.



IT'S NOT MUCH OF A LEAD, BUT IT'S ALL WE'VE
GOT. ACCORDING TO THE COMPUTERS, THE
FREIGHTER WAS PROBABLY MAKING FOR ARCOS.
IT'S A DUTY-FREE PLANET — A LOT OF HARD
CASES THERE.

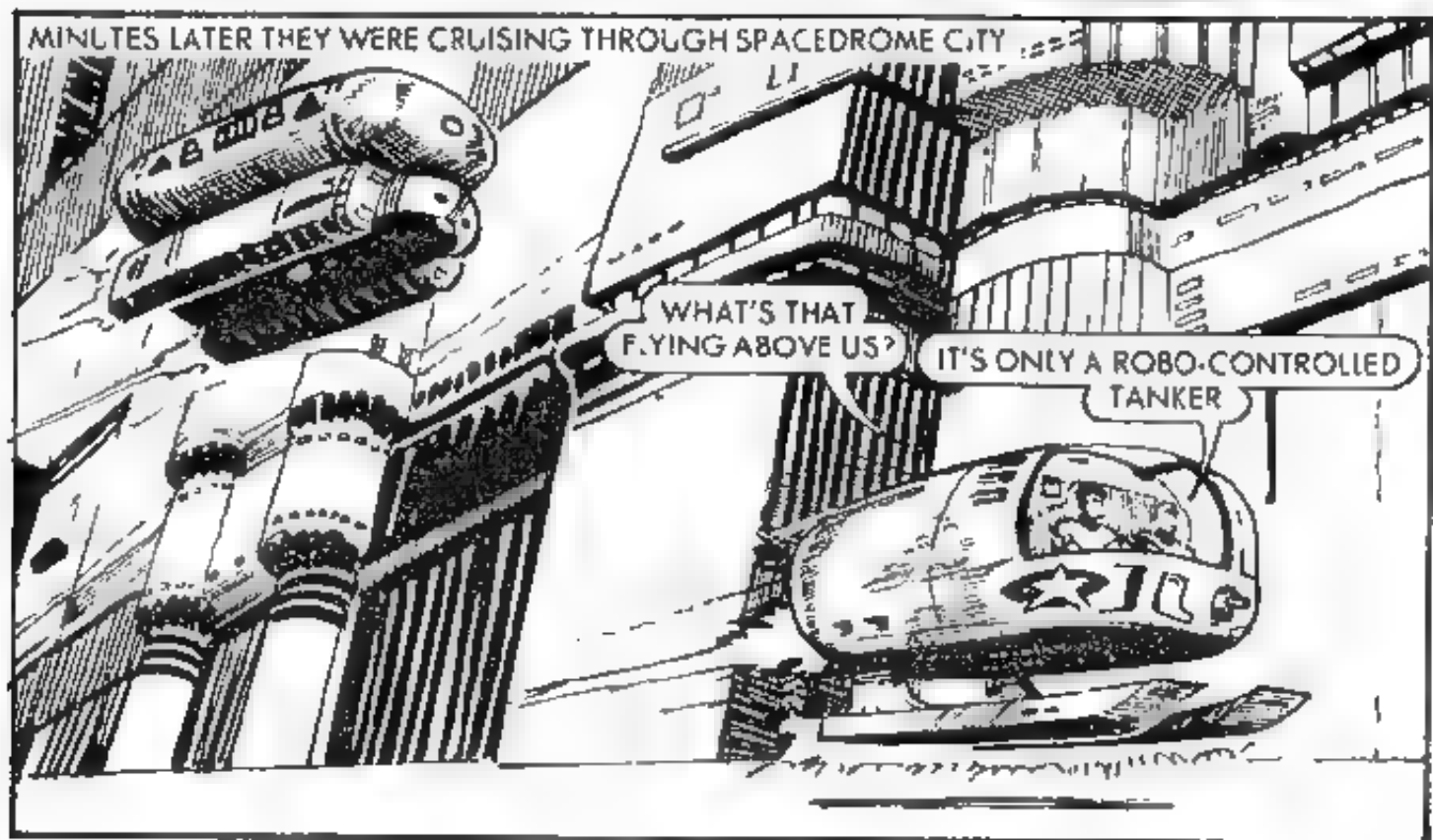
TWO SPACIALS LATER THEY WERE IN ORBIT AROUND ARCOS

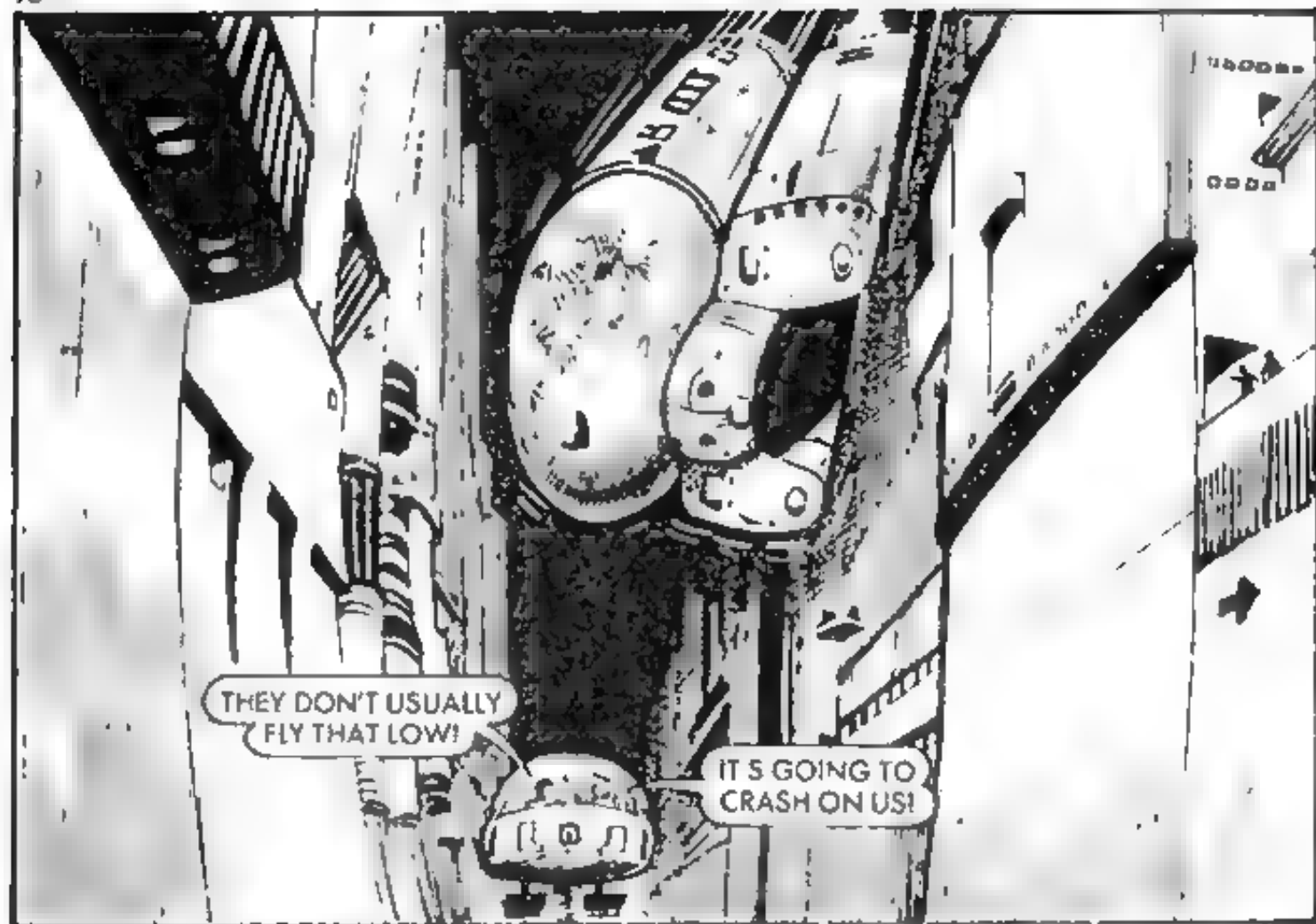
G.I.A. HERE A FREIGHTER ARRIVED
THREE DAYS AGO FROM SPACE
QUADRANT A88/R2841. WE WISH TO
INTERVIEW THE CAPTAIN

THE ONLY SHIP FROM THAT WAY IS THE
FREIGHTER TYGON. IT DOES A REGULAR
RUN. THE CAPTAIN'S NAME IS SLORG!

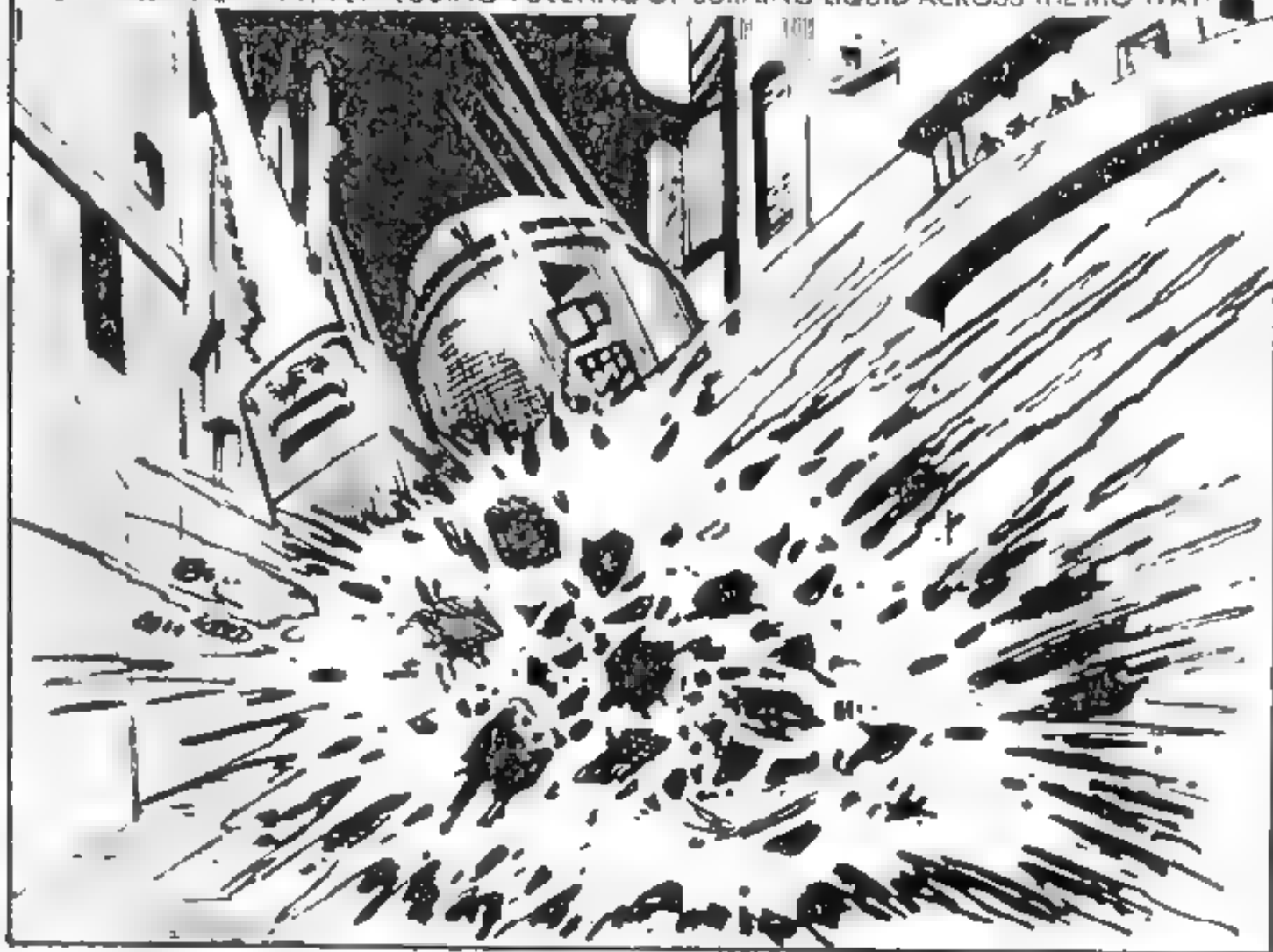
WE ARE LANDING BY SHUTTLE BUG.
PLEASE ADVISE CAPTAIN SLORG'S
WHEREABOUTS

CHECKING THE CITIZEN
LOCATION SYSTEM





THE TANKER SPEWED AN EXPLODING VOLCANO OF BURNING LIQUID ACROSS THE MO WAY!



SCORCH'S LIGHTNING REACTIONS BLASTED THE BUG THROUGH THE MO WAY WALL





SCORCH EXPLAINED.

I CAN'T HELP I DO THAT RUN EVERY MONTH
AND THERE WAS NOTHING DIFFERENT THIS TIME

IT WAS A LONG
SHOT BUT WE HAD TO ASK



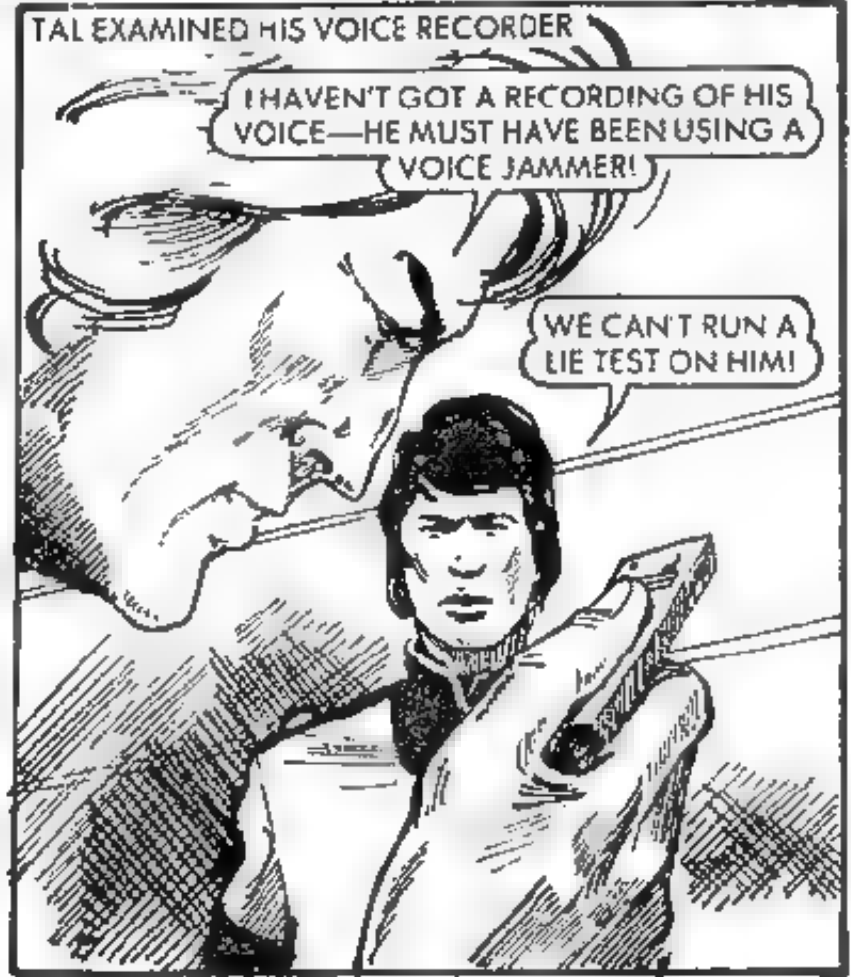
I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE YOU
NOW I'VE A SCHEDULED
TAKE-OFF FOR ZORDA 5 IN
THIRTY MINUTES.

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S BACK TO
SQUARE ONE FOR US.

TAL EXAMINED HIS VOICE RECORDER

I HAVEN'T GOT A RECORDING OF HIS
VOICE—HE MUST HAVE BEEN USING A
VOICE JAMMER!

WE CAN'T RUN A
LIE TEST ON HIM!





AS SCORCH RACED FROM THE BAR THE PARALYSING LASH OF A NEUTRON WHIP COILED AROUND HIS THROAT





THE ASSAILANTS FLED

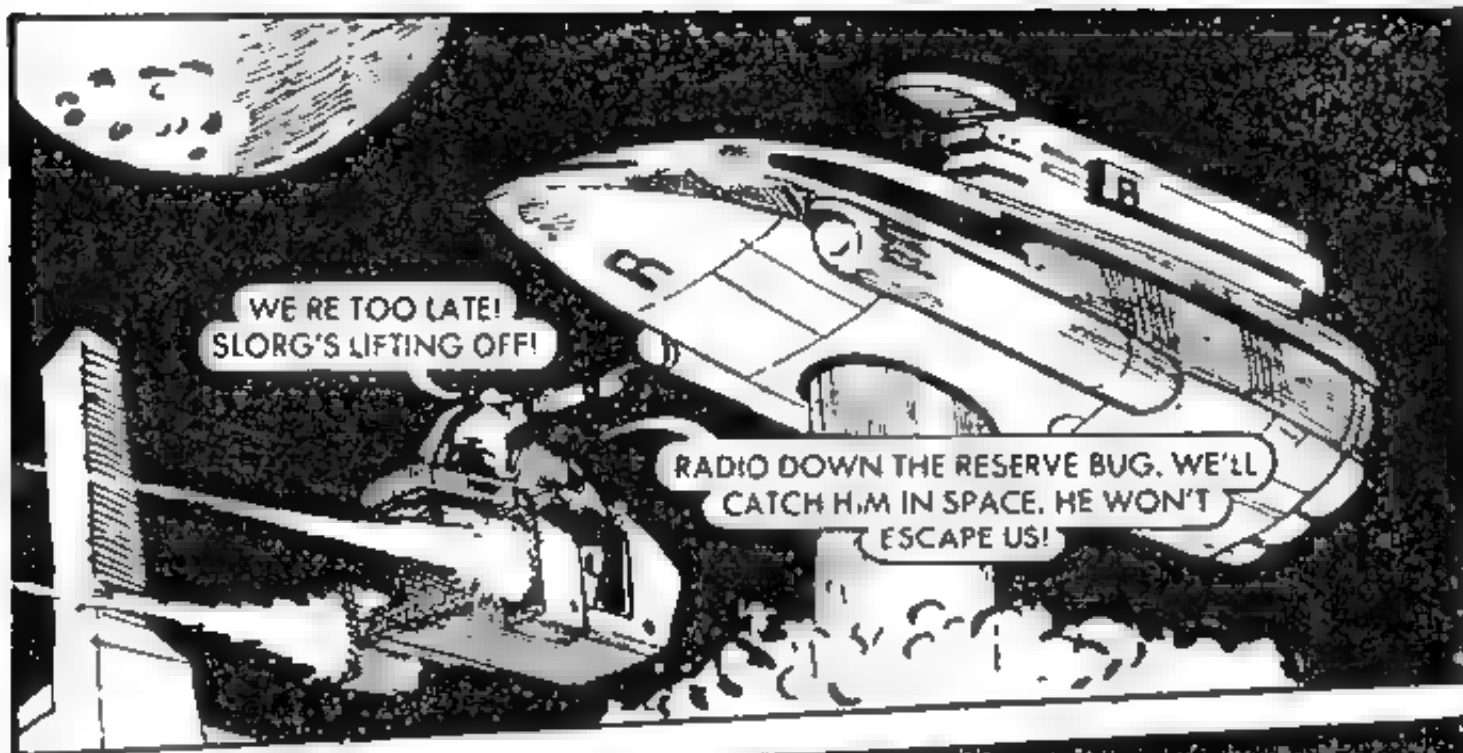
LET'S BORROW THAT BIKE AND GET
BACK TO THE SPACE-DROME

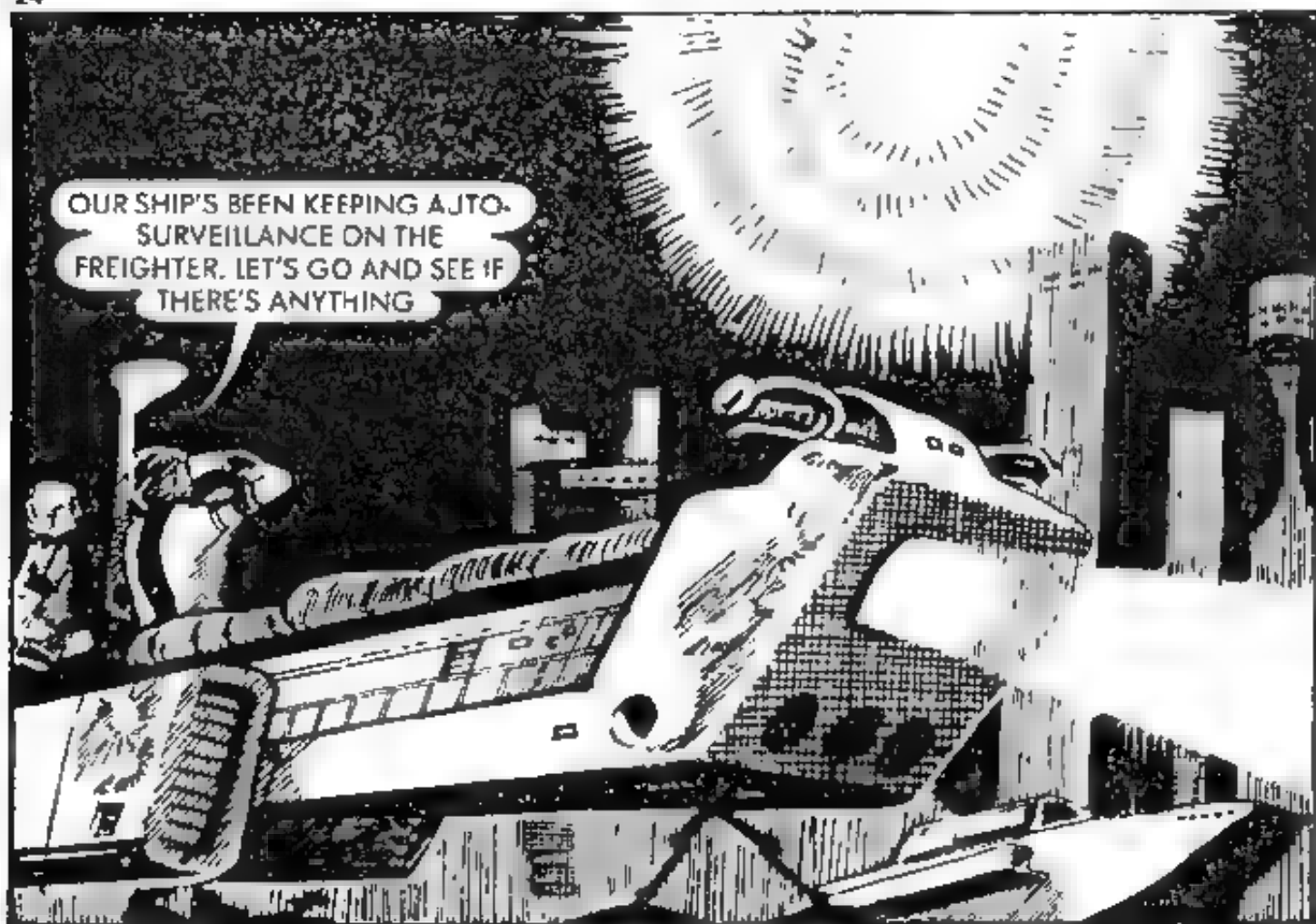


I'M THINKING THOSE MUGGERS WERE
HIRED TO KILL US AND THAT TANKER
CRASH WAS NO ACCIDENT EITHER

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS BUT WE'RE
CLOSE TO SOMETHING BIG AND IT'S
MAKING PEOPLE PANIC!










HE PROBABLY CALLED PLANET VESTA. IT'S ONE OF THE
'RANCORP' HEALTH FOOD PLANETS WHERE THEY
GROW SYNTHETIC HEALTH FOOD.

OF COURSE. THE FREIGHTER WAS
A RANCORP SHIP!



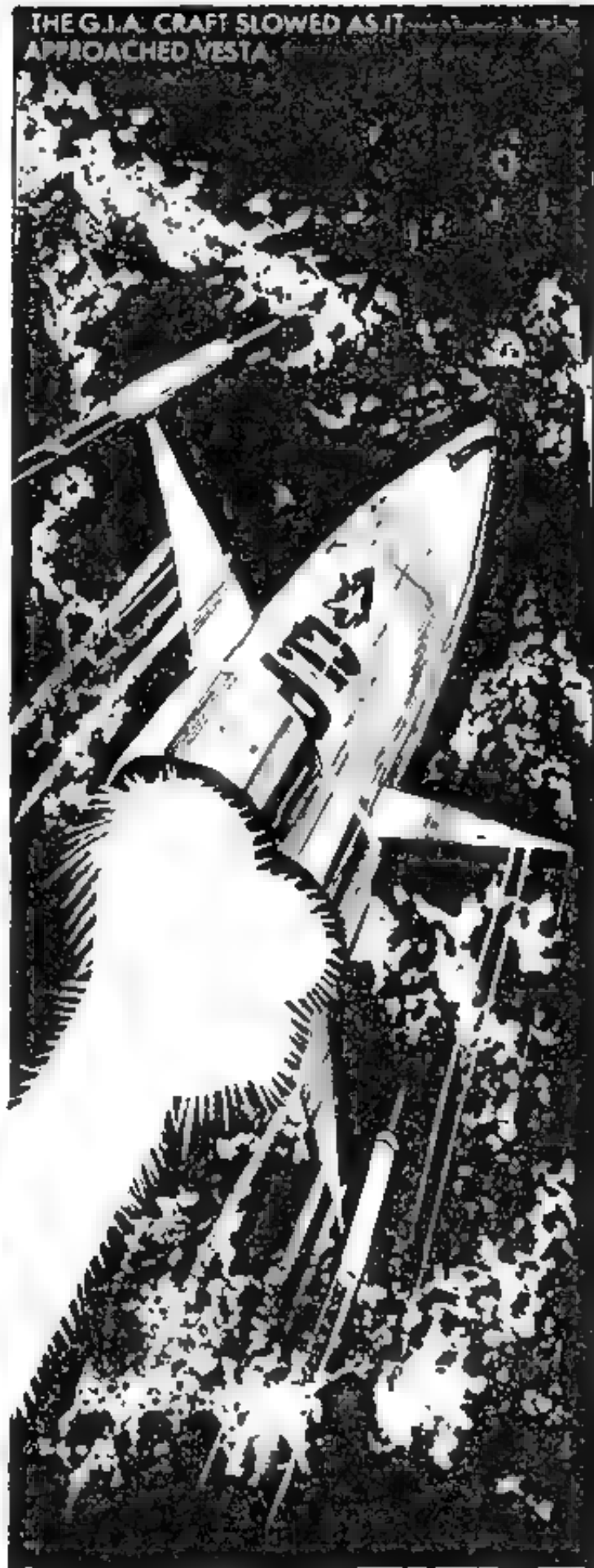
LET'S PAY THEM A VISIT—BUT IN SECRET WE'LL
HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF FINDING OUT
WHAT'S GOING ON IF THEY DON'T KNOW WE'RE
AROUND.

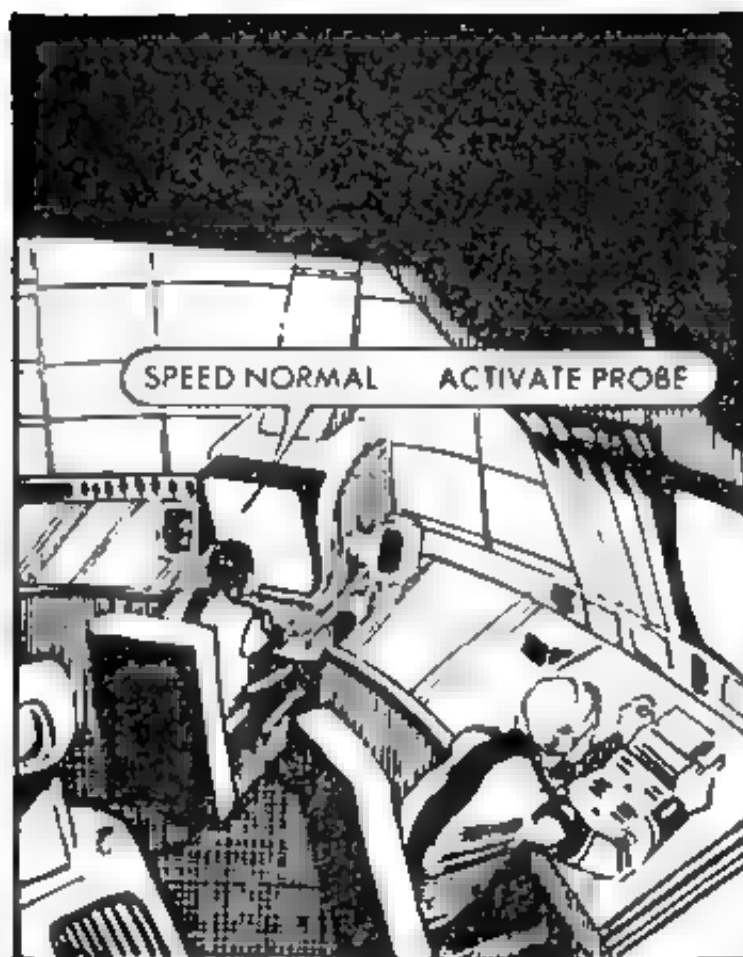
I'LL RIG FOR INVISIBLE RUNNING AND
RAISE THE SENSOR SHROUD.

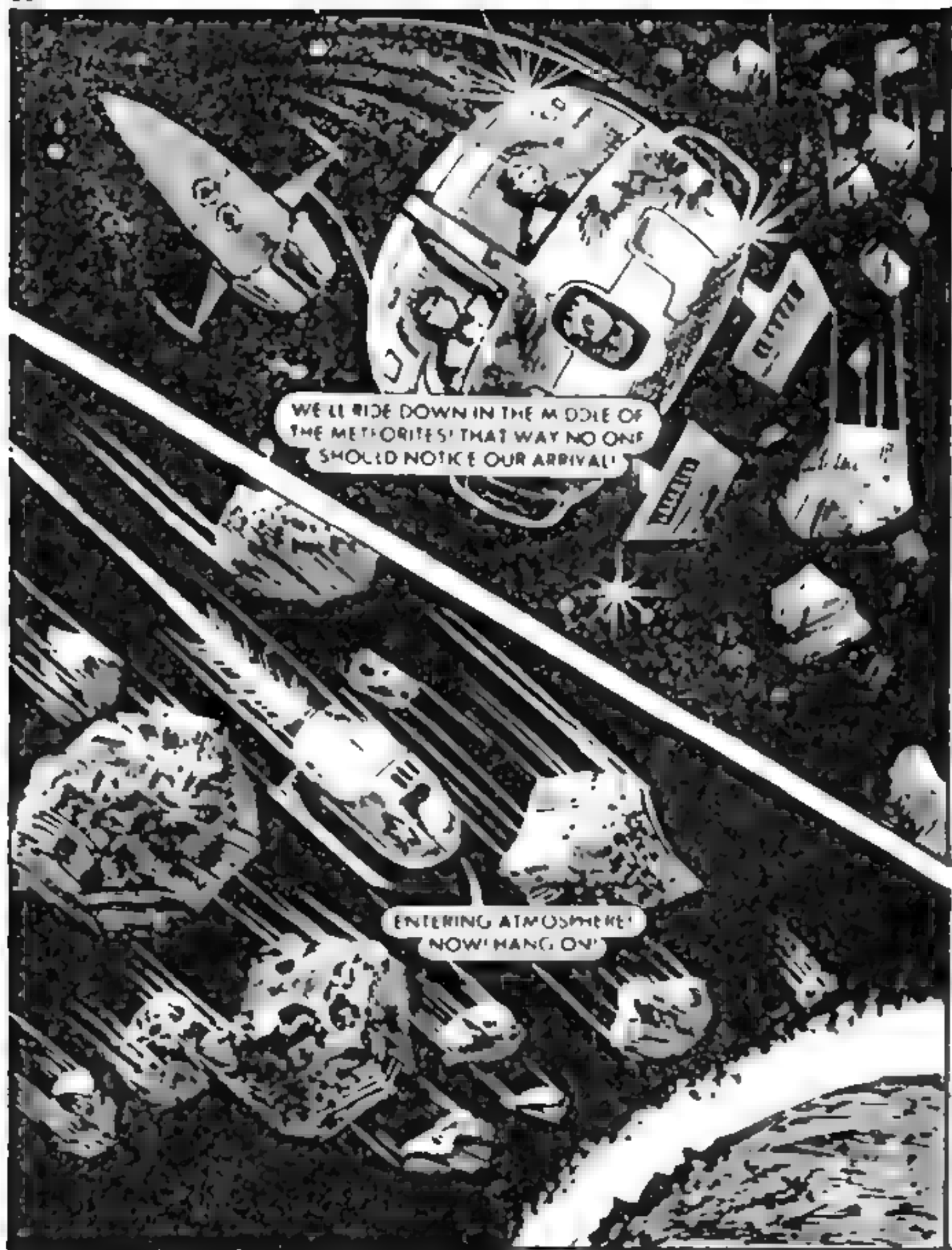
WITH THE SHROUD DEVICE HIDING THE SHIP FROM PROBING SENSORS, THEY HYPER WARPED TOWARDS THE PLANET VESTA.

VESTA'S COMPLETELY DEVOTED TO THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD. IT'S ALL DONE BY MACHINE. THERE ARE ONLY TWO HUNDRED HUMANS AND THEY'RE AT THE ONE FOOD COLLECTION POINT ON THE PLANET.

THE G.I.A. CRAFT SLOWED AS IT APPROACHED VESTA.







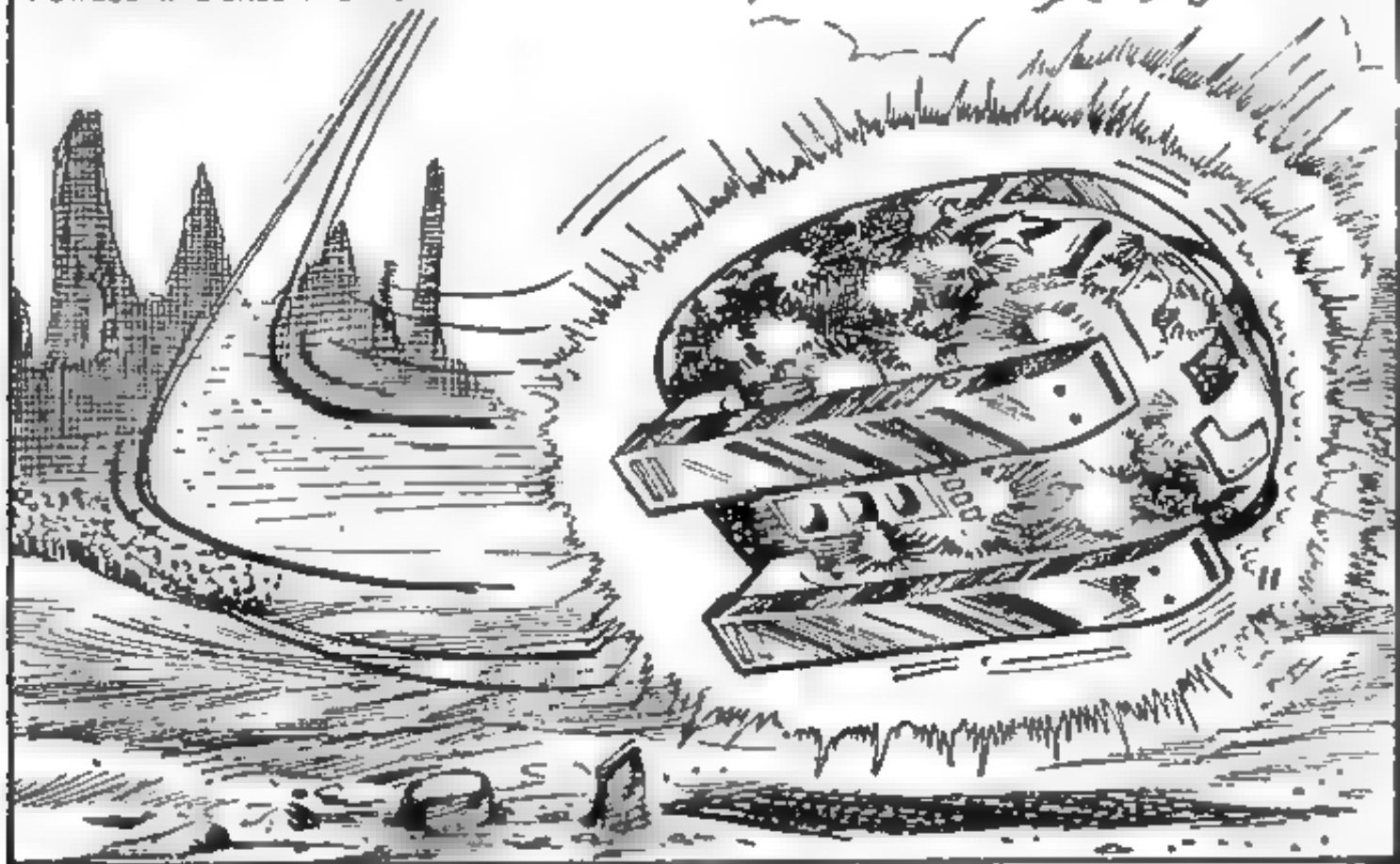
AS THEY HIT THE ATMOSPHERE THE METEORITES INSTANTLY CHANGED INTO A BOILING, EXPLODING MASS OF FLAMING LAVA.

SLOW DOWN, SCORCHI!

I DAREN'T!
WE'D BE NOTICED.

WE MUST IMITATE THE
METEORITE BEHAVIOUR.
GOT TO KEEP THIS SPEED TO
ZERO FEET!

AT THE LAST SECOND SCORCH HIT THE GRAVITY BRAKES, BUT THE COLOSSAL 'G' FORCES KNOCKED THEM OUT.

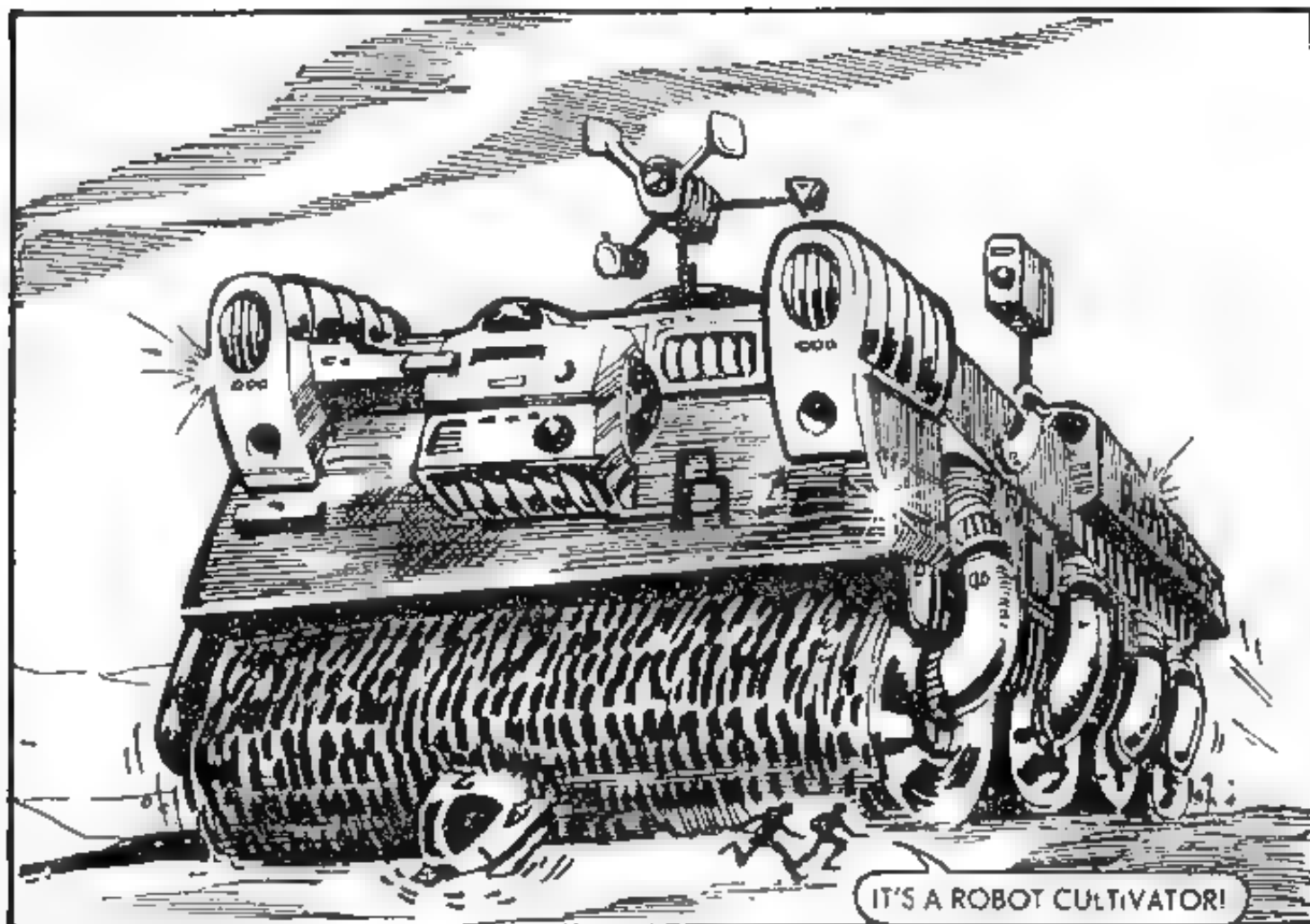


HOURS LATER THEY CAME ROUND—



AT LEAST WE'RE
IN ONE PIECE!

GET OUT—QUICK!



THE GIANT MACHINES CARRIED ON THEIR PROGRAMMED WAY, LEAVING ONLY A GREY POWDER WHERE THE BUG HAD BEEN.

ANOTHER SECOND AND WE'D HAVE BEEN CULTIVATED!



NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

SAME PLAN WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE FOOD COLLECTION COMPLEX. IT'S ONLY ABOUT SIX HUNDRED MILES AWAY

THERE'S A ROAD THAT WAY IT'S BOUND TO HAVE TRANSPORT ON IT

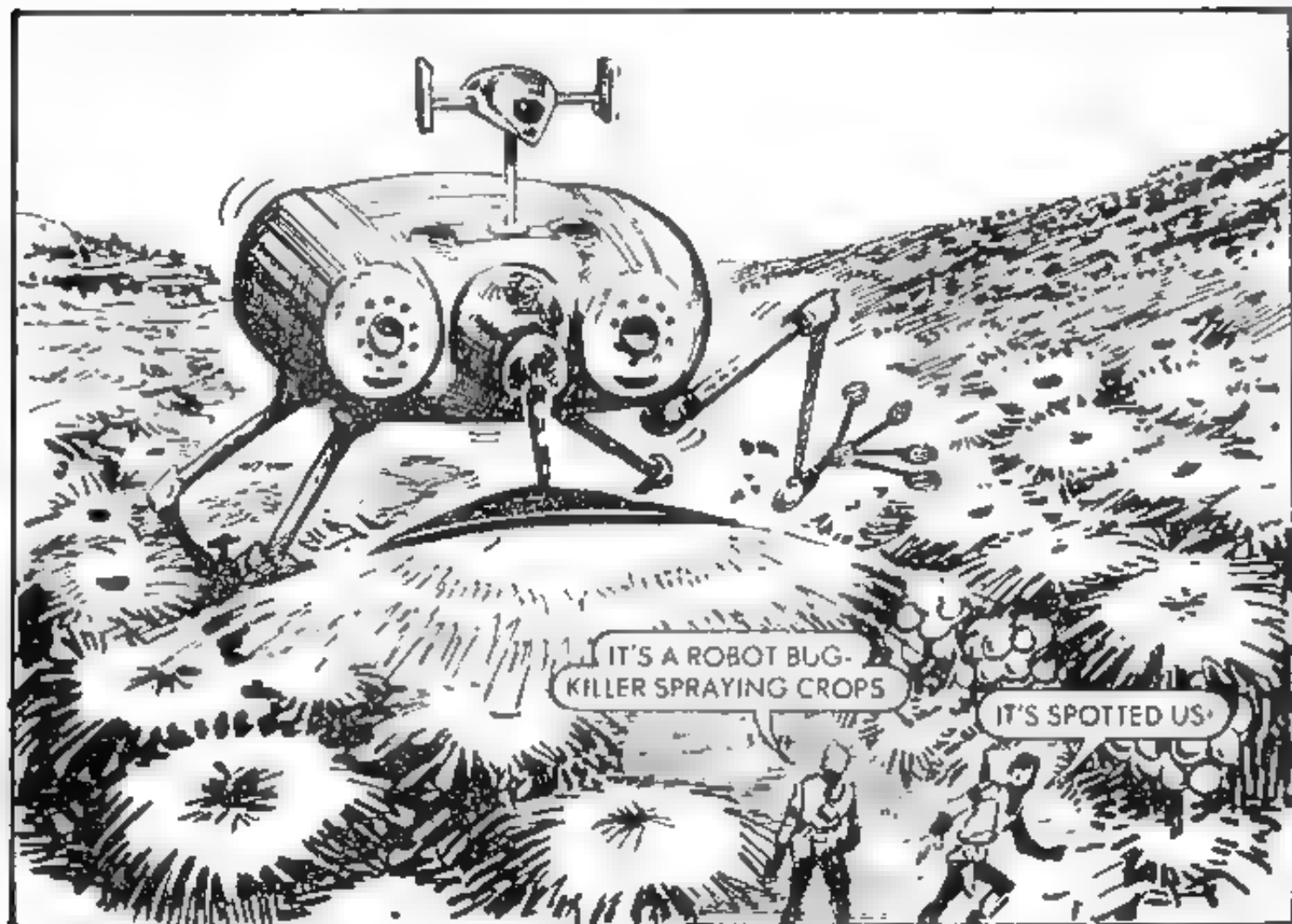


THEY MARCHED ON ACROSS THE VAST FIELDS OF SYNTHI FOOD PLANTS.

I RECKON IT'S ANOTHER TWENTY MILES TO THE ROAD

HEY! WHAT'S THAT HUMMING NOISE?







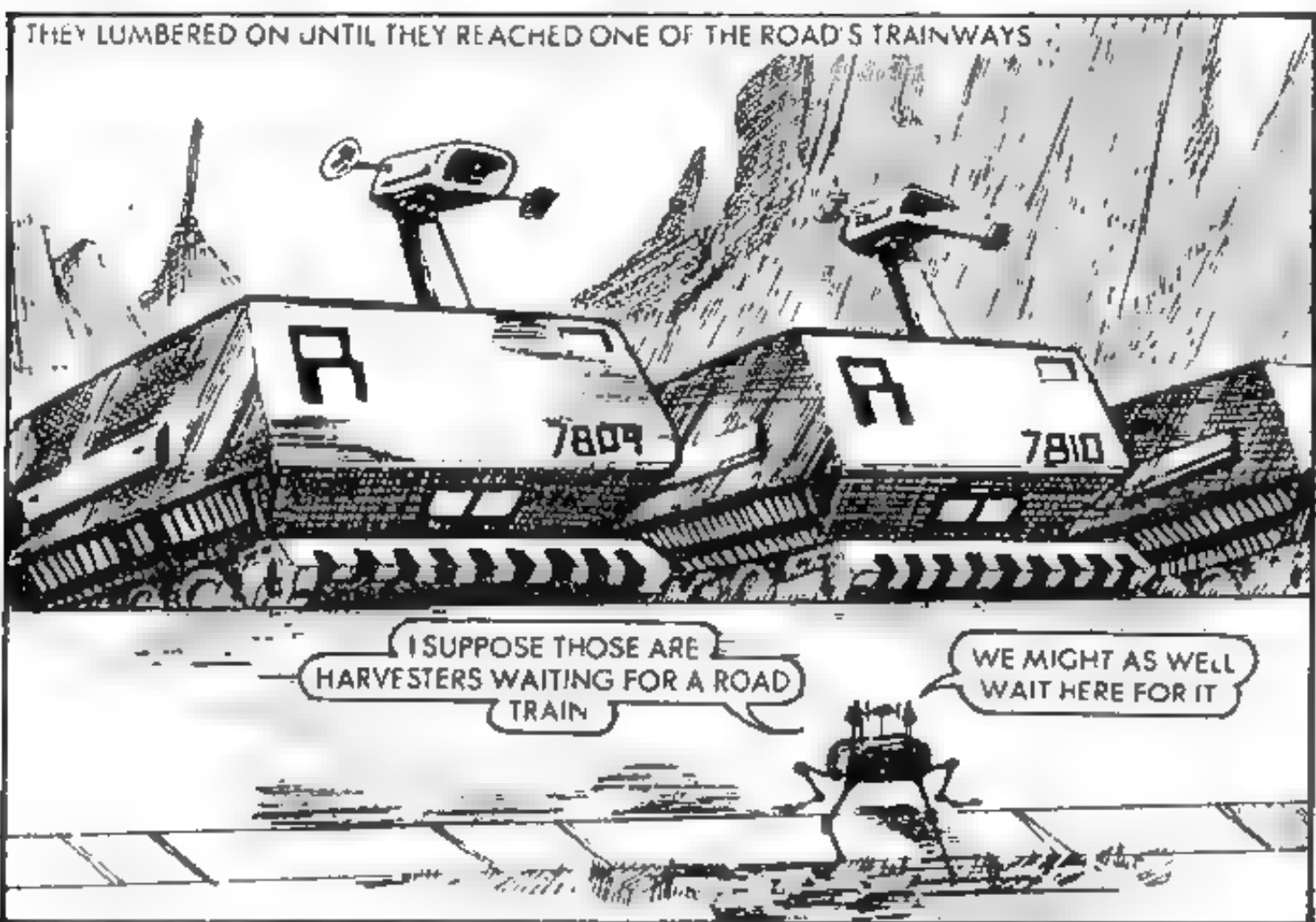
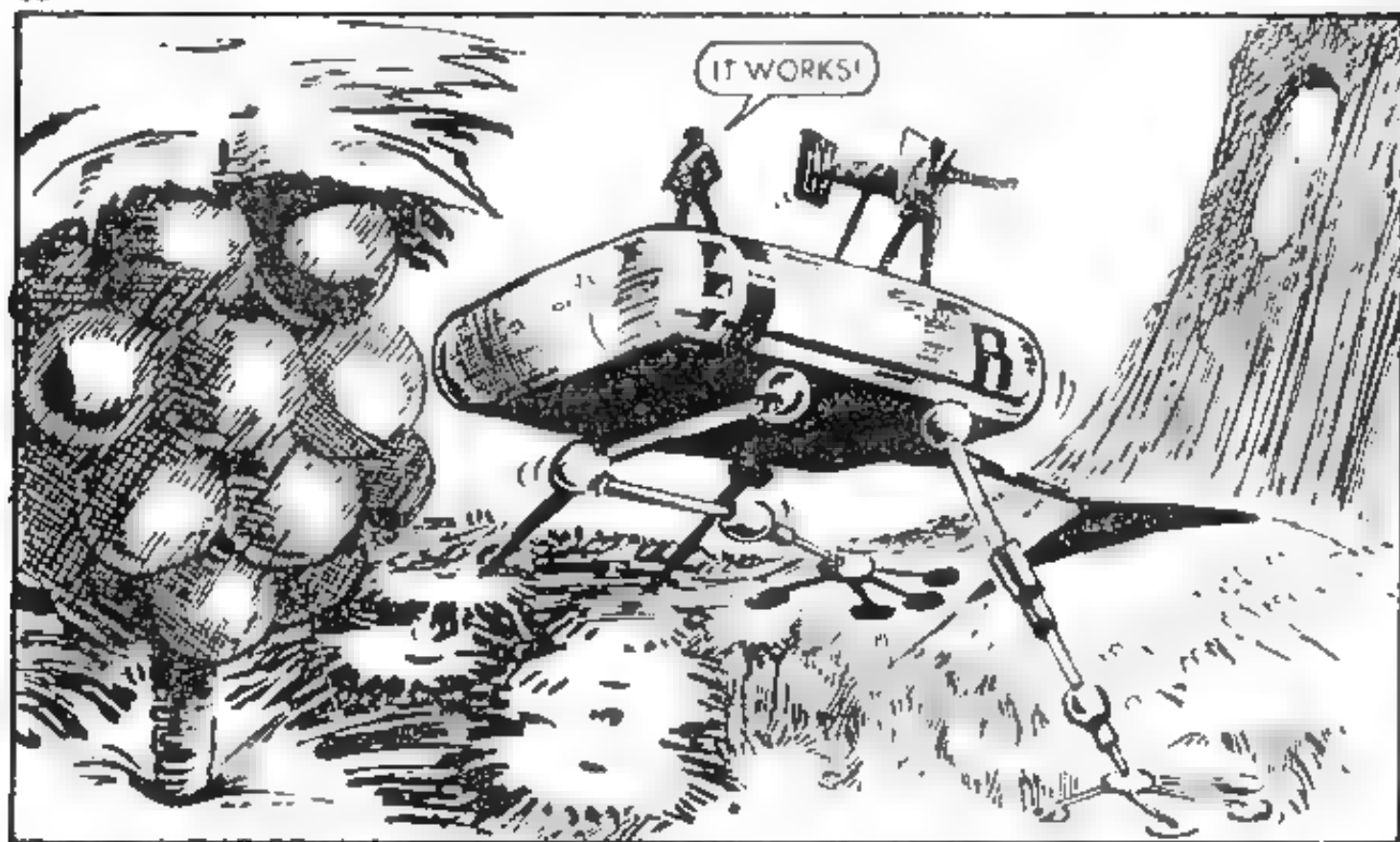
WE'RE SAFE UP HERE

JUST HOW DO YOU PLAN
TO DRIVE THIS THING TO
THE ROAD?

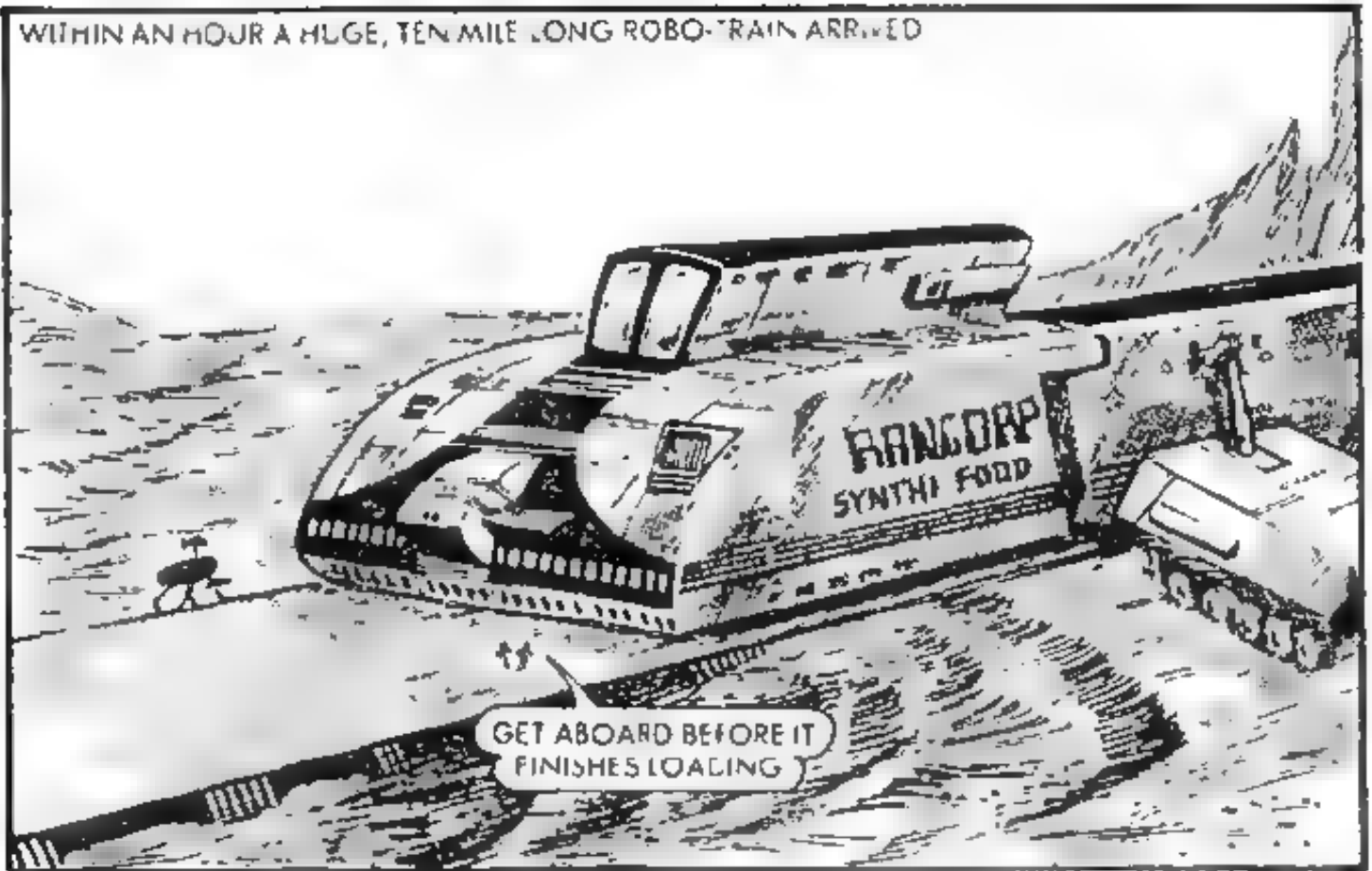


EASY! STAND AGAINST ONE OF
THESE SENSOR Baffles AND IT'LL
GO THAT DIRECTION!

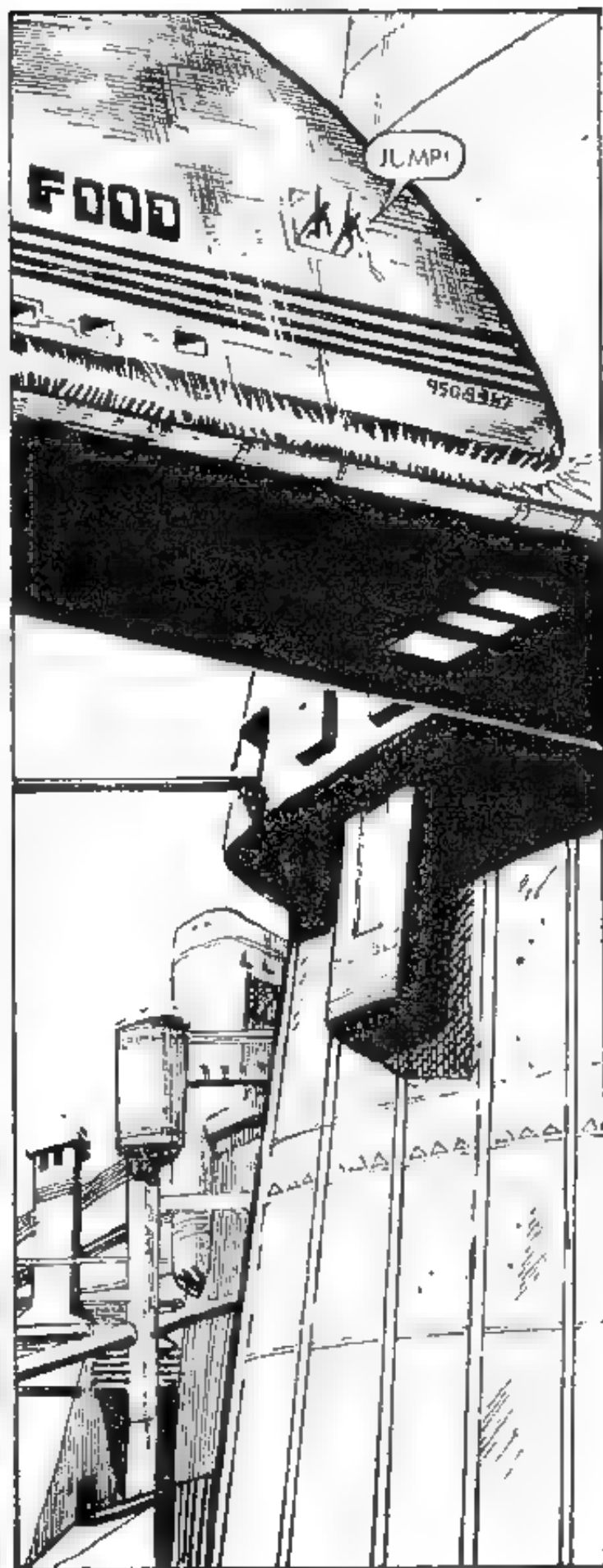
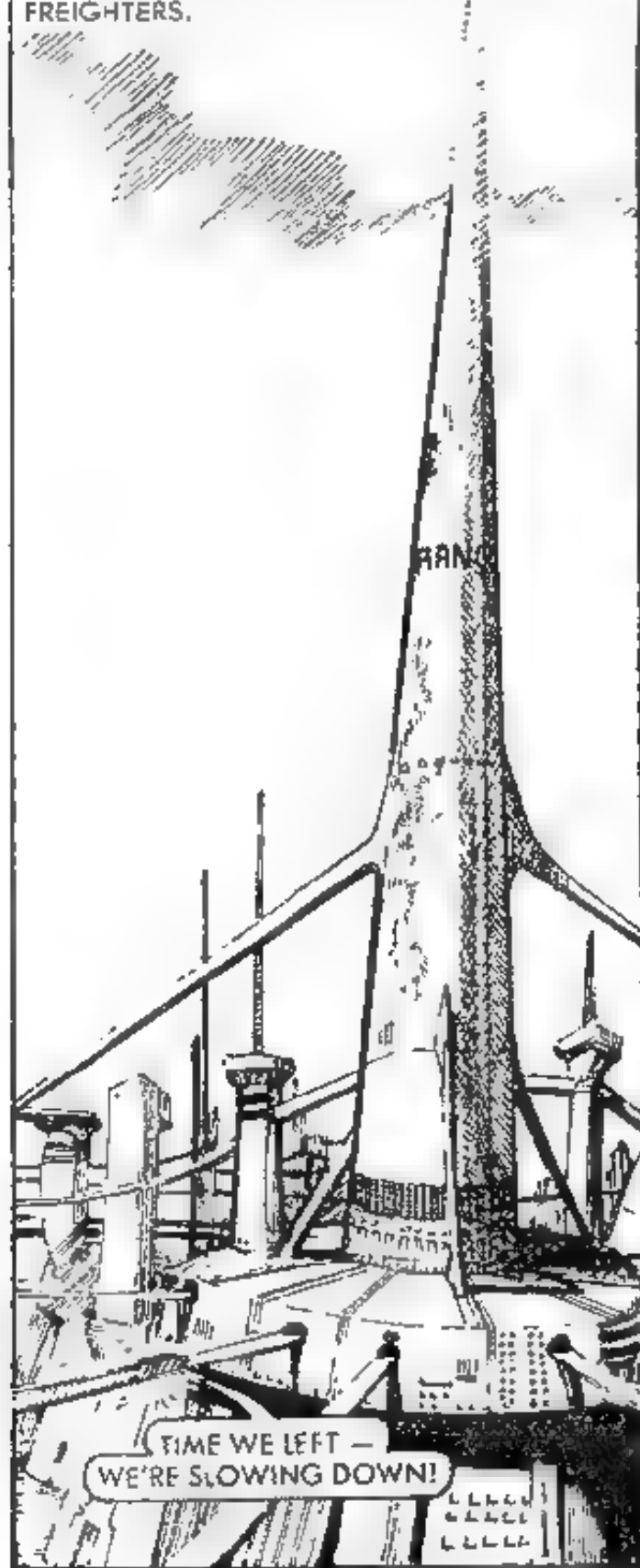




WITHIN AN HOUR A HUGE, TEN MILE LONG ROBO-TRAIN ARRIVED



THEY ARRIVED AT THE COMPLEX
DOMINATED BY ITS STAR LIFT WHICH
CARRIED FOOD FIVE HUNDRED MILES
UP INTO SPACE TO A TERMINAL
WHERE IT WAS LOADED ONTO WAITING
FREIGHTERS.



THEY LEAPT FROM THE TRAIN AND FLOATED DOWN TO GROUND LEVEL ON THEIR GRAVITY DROGLES.

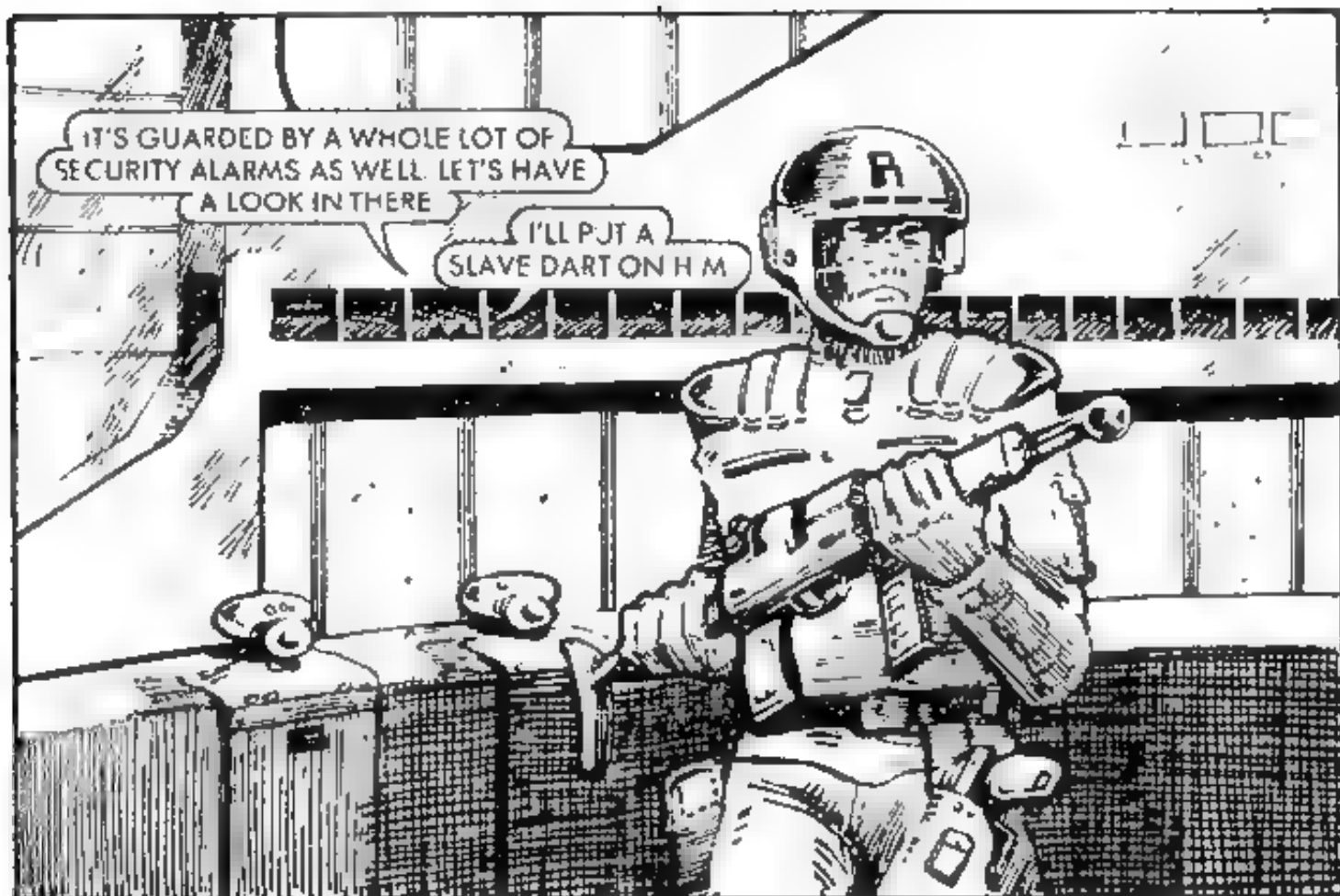


NOW OUR PROBLEMS REALLY BEGIN!
WE'VE NO PROOF THAT THE PEOPLE
HERE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE
TRANS SOLAR DISASTER

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THE
DISASTER WAS NATURAL OR NOT. IF
SLOGR HADN'T PANICKED WHEN HE
SAW US, WE WOULDN'T EVEN BE
HERE



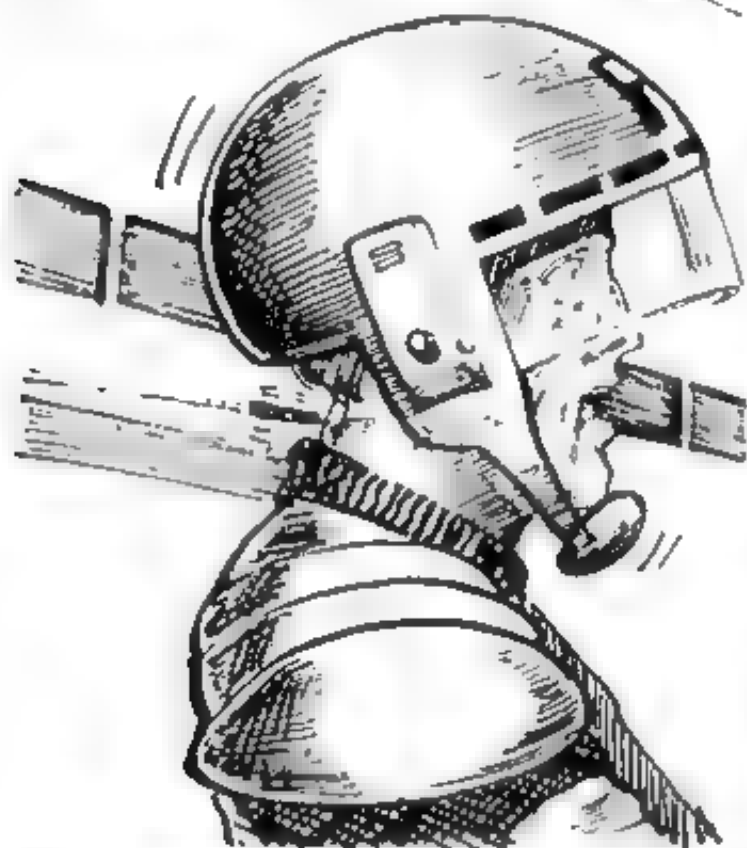




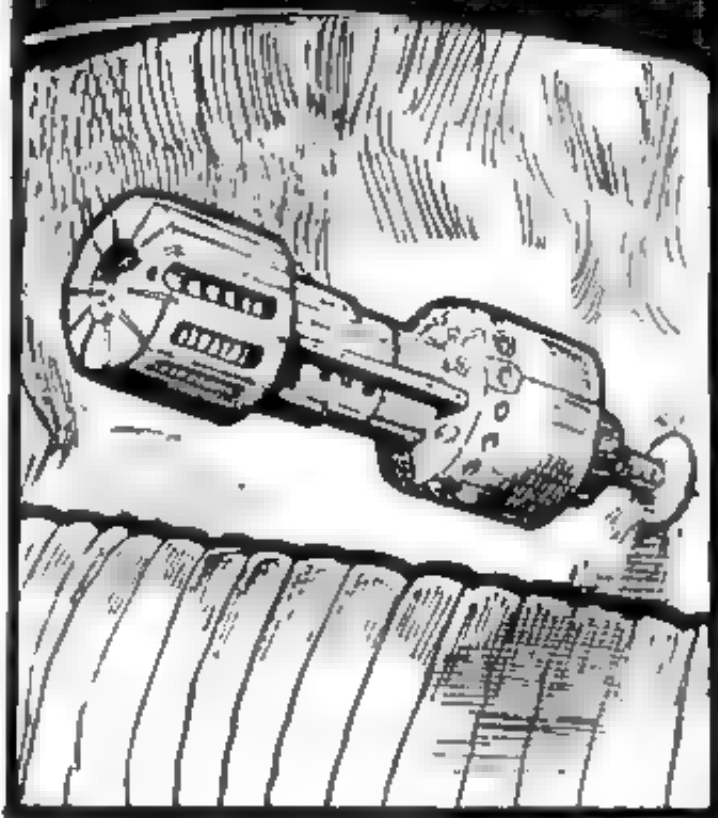
SCORCH WAITED UNTIL HE SAW THE GUARD'S NECK IN THE VIDEO SIGHT OF HIS RIFLE AND FIRED



A HYPODERMIC DART STUCK IN THE GUARD'S NECK—INSTANTLY PARALYSING HIM, SO THAT HE STOOD FROZEN TO THE SPOT.



IT THEN BEGAN TO TRANSMIT A RECORDING OF THE GUARD'S BRAIN PATTERN



IS IT WORKING?

YES! I CAN FEED BACK SELECTED BRAIN IMPULSES AND RADIO CONTROL HIM.



I'LL GET HIM TO SWITCH THE SECURITY SYSTEMS OFF



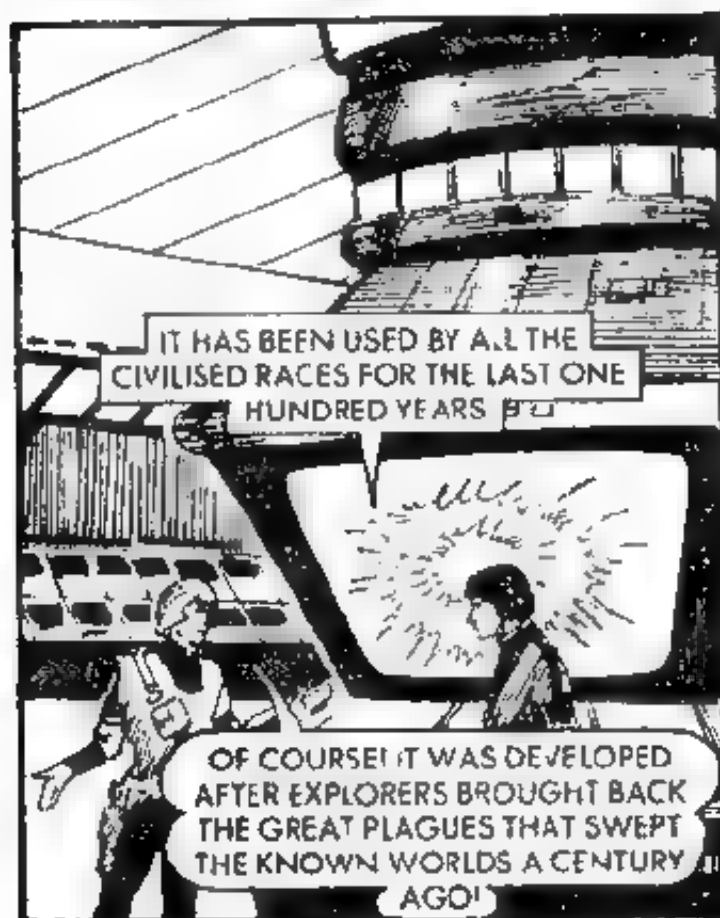
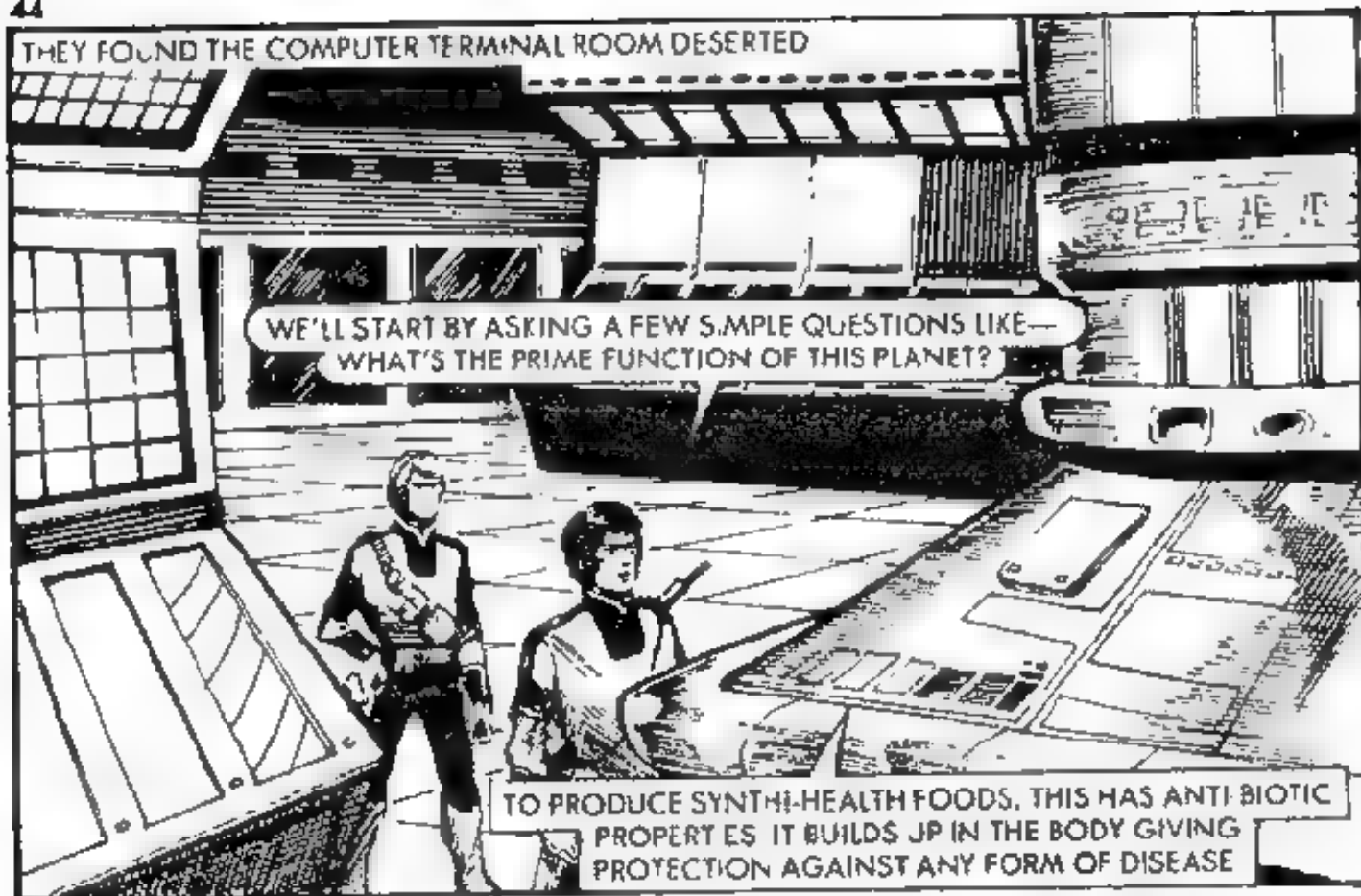
A MINUTE LATER THE TWO AGENTS PREPARED TO ENTER THE UNDERGROUND BUILDING

I'VE PROGRAMMED HIM
TO SLEEP FOR A DAY



THIS LIFT GOES DOWN TO A COMPUTER
COMPLEX. IF THERE'S ANYTHING WORTH
GUARDING T'LL BE IN THE COMPUTERS.









AS THE GUARDS FIRED, THE FORCE SHIELDS ACTIVATED



AND REFLECTED THE BEAMS BACK





THE MACHINE BEGAN TO UNSCRAMBLE ITS CIRCUITS.

JUPITER! THEY'VE FOUND A RADIO WAVE THAT DESTROYS THE BODY'S IMMUNITY TO DISEASE! IT INSTANTLY DESTROYS THE SYNTHETIC ANTIBODIES AND RELEASES A NEW VIRUS—A KILLER VIRUS.

IS MICRO STATE BY FREQUENCY
BY DYNAMIC BACTERIAL
INDICATES A 100% BREAK IN
RADIO BIO-LINKAGE. GENETIC
CONTROL OF BODY AND CIRCULATORY
SYSTEMS. I.E. IMMUNITY TO
NATURAL RESISTANCE.

THEY TRANSMITTED IT FROM SLORE'S FREIGHTER TO THE LINER! IT WAS A TEST BECAUSE OF ALL THE DIFFERENT RACES ON BOARD!

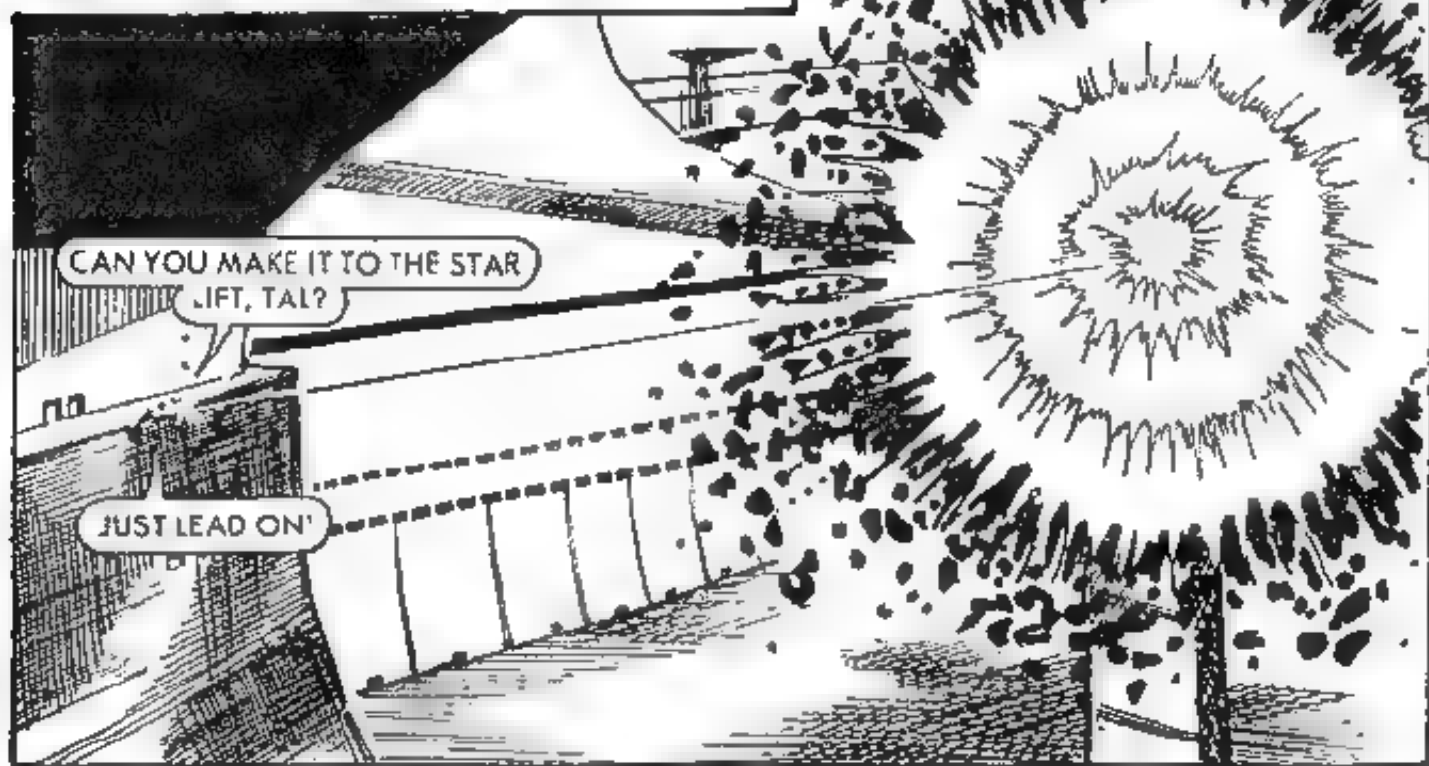
NOW AT LEAST WE KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WE CAN PUT A STOP TO IT





BEFORE TAL COULD CALL HE WAS BLASTED BACKWARDS AS THE WALL AND HIS RADIO
DISINTEGRATED.



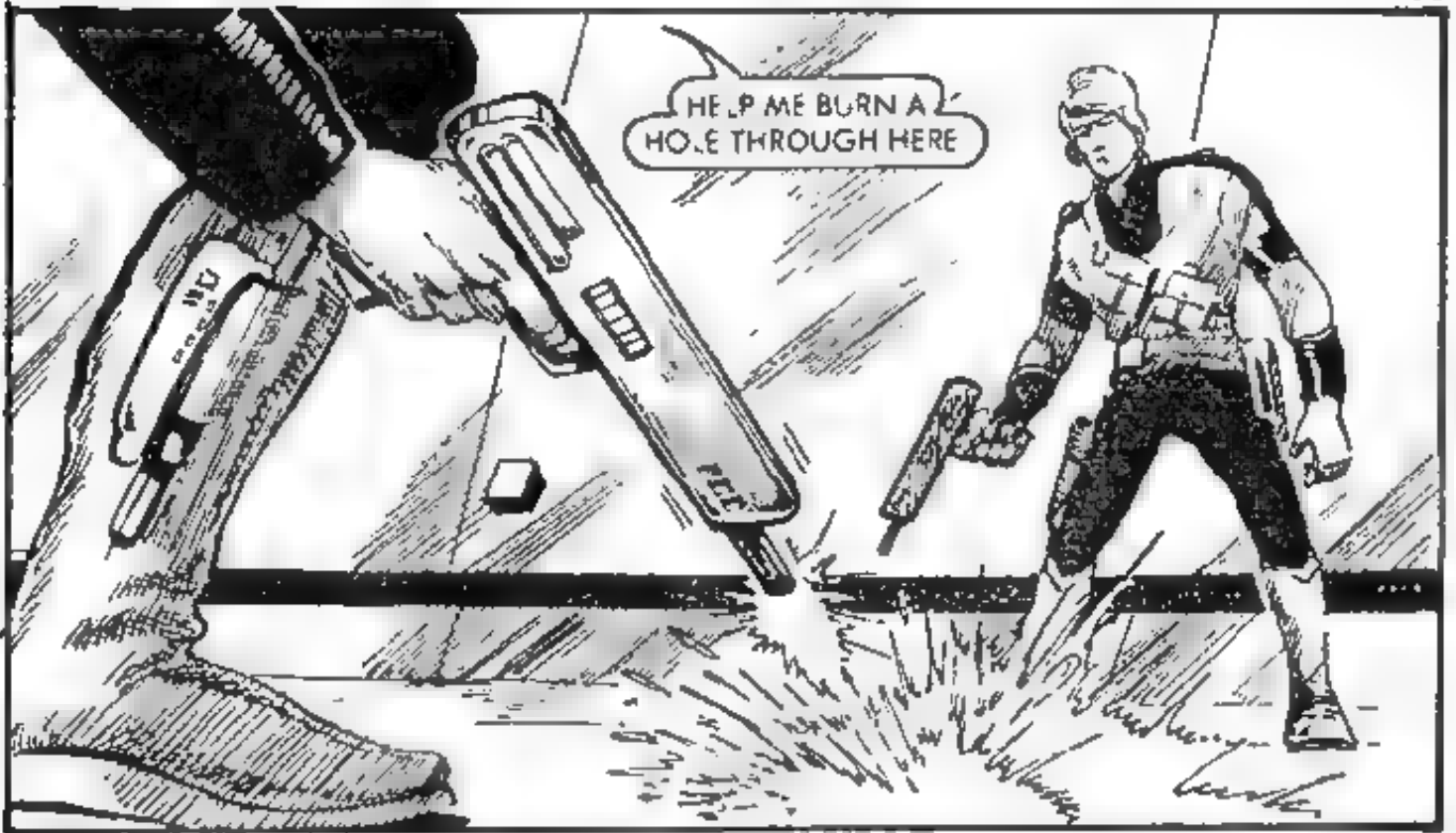


THEY MADE THEIR WAY UNCHALLENGED
TO THE STAR LIFT.

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CALL THE
SHIP ON OUR COMMUNICATORS
ONCE WE GET INTO SPACE.

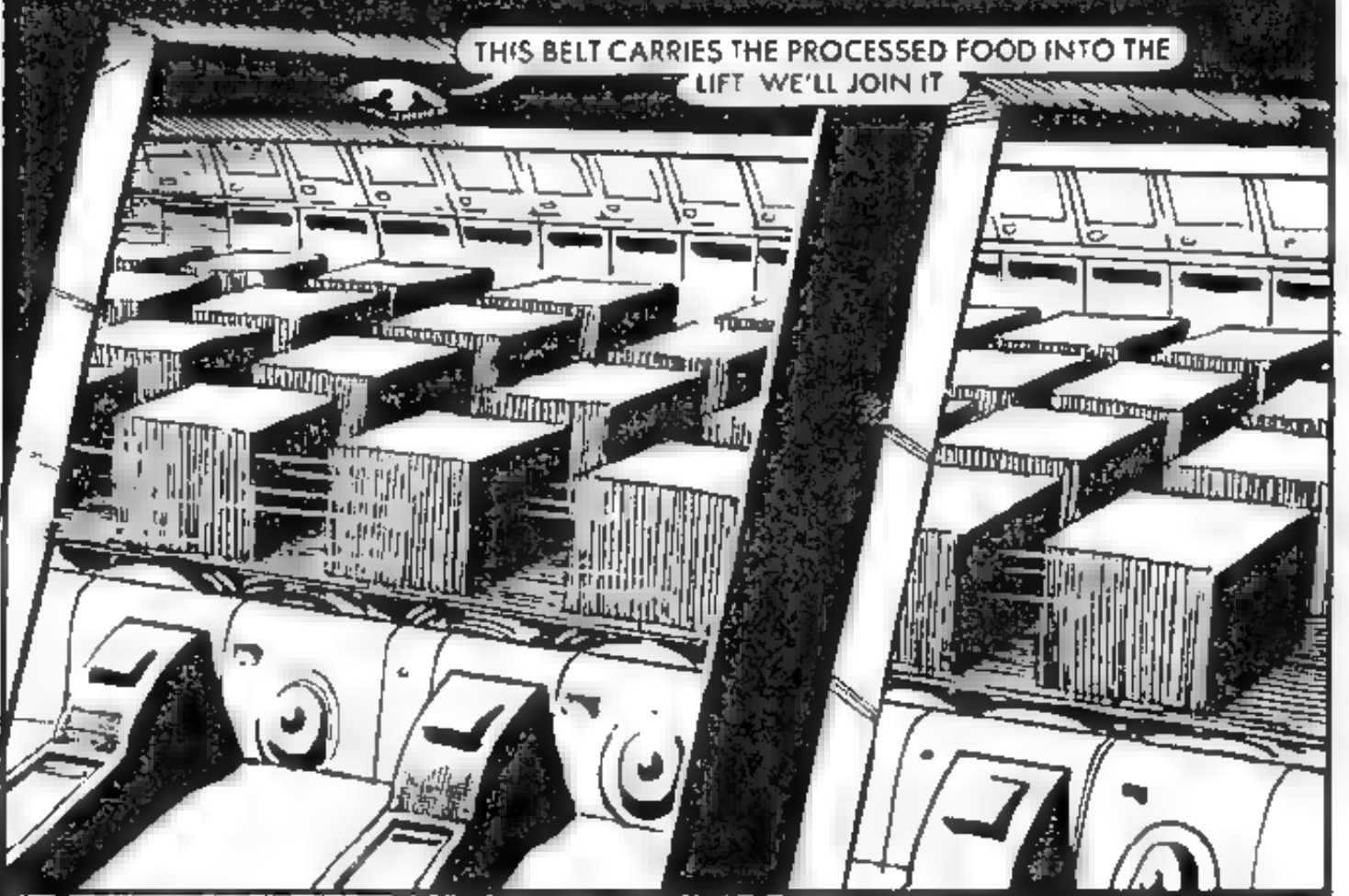
THAT MEANS GOING
UP IN THE STAR LIFT!

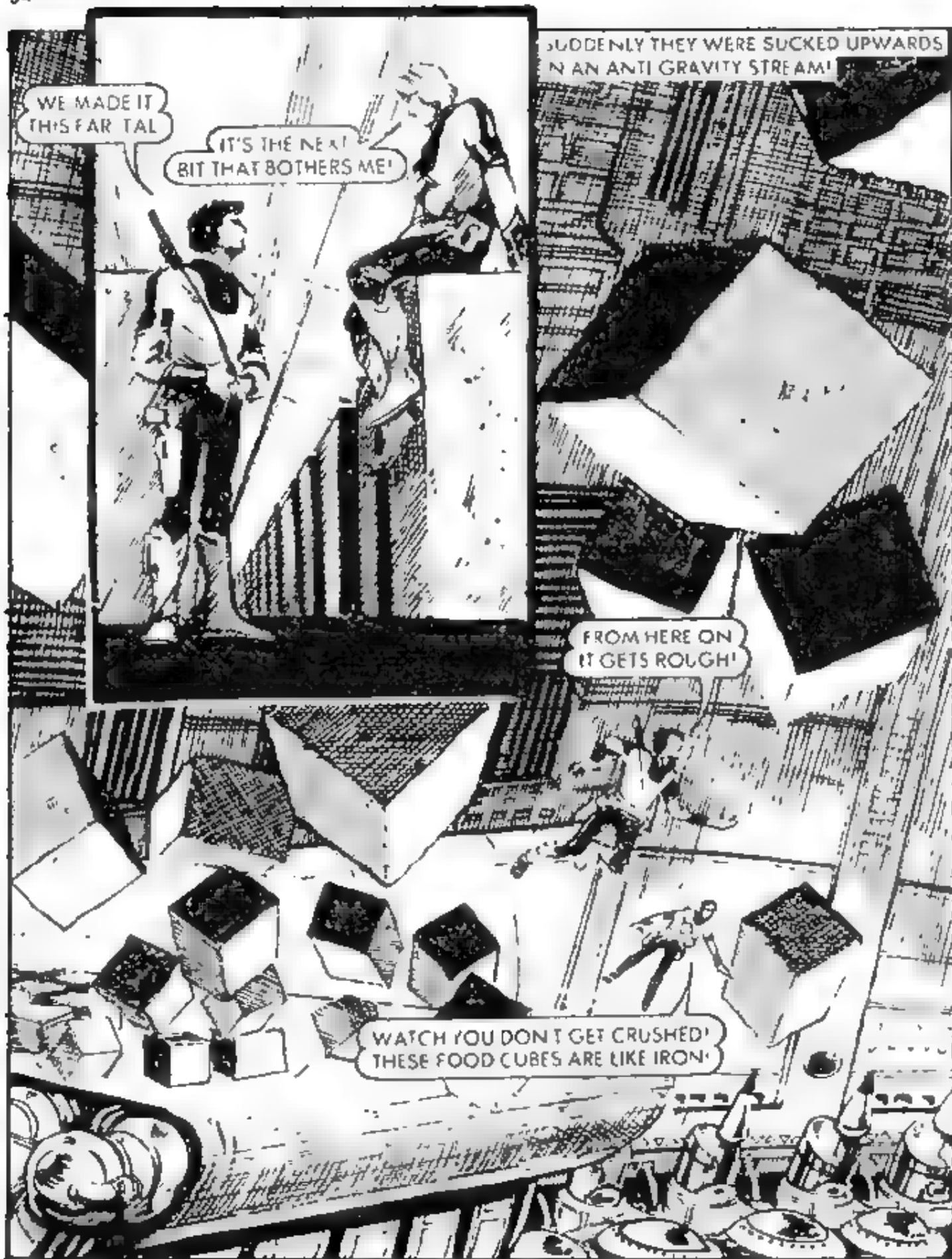
COME ON LET'S GET DOWN
THERE!



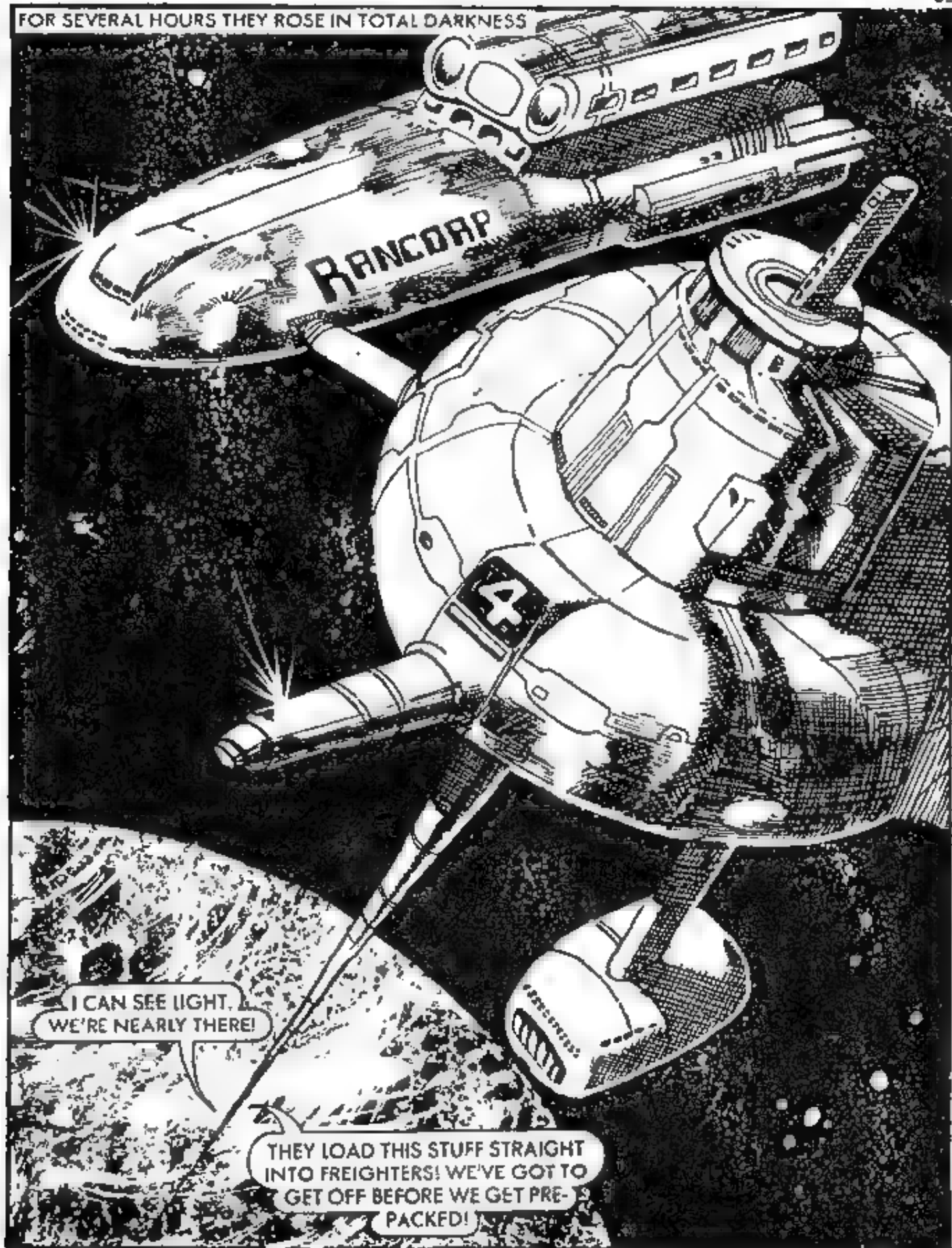
IN MINUTES THEY HAD CUT THROUGH THE METAL AND FOUND THEMSELVES LOOKING DOWN ON TO A HUGE CONVEYOR BELT

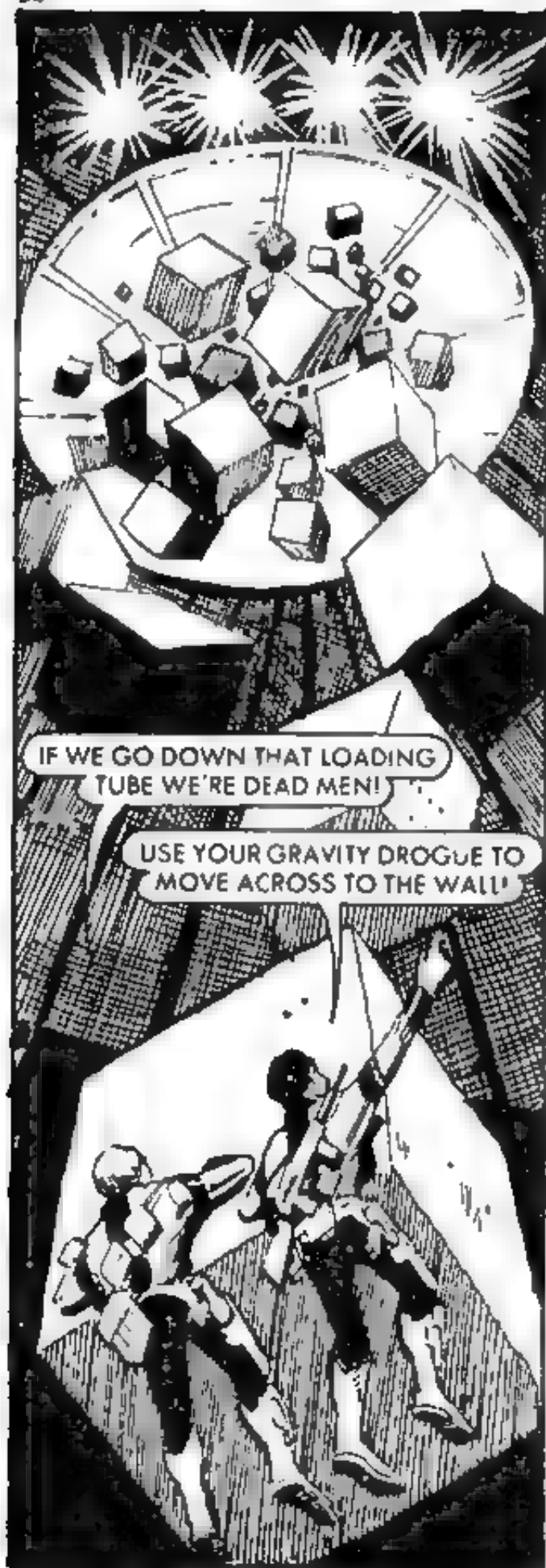
THIS BELT CARRIES THE PROCESSED FOOD INTO THE LIFT WE'LL JOIN IT





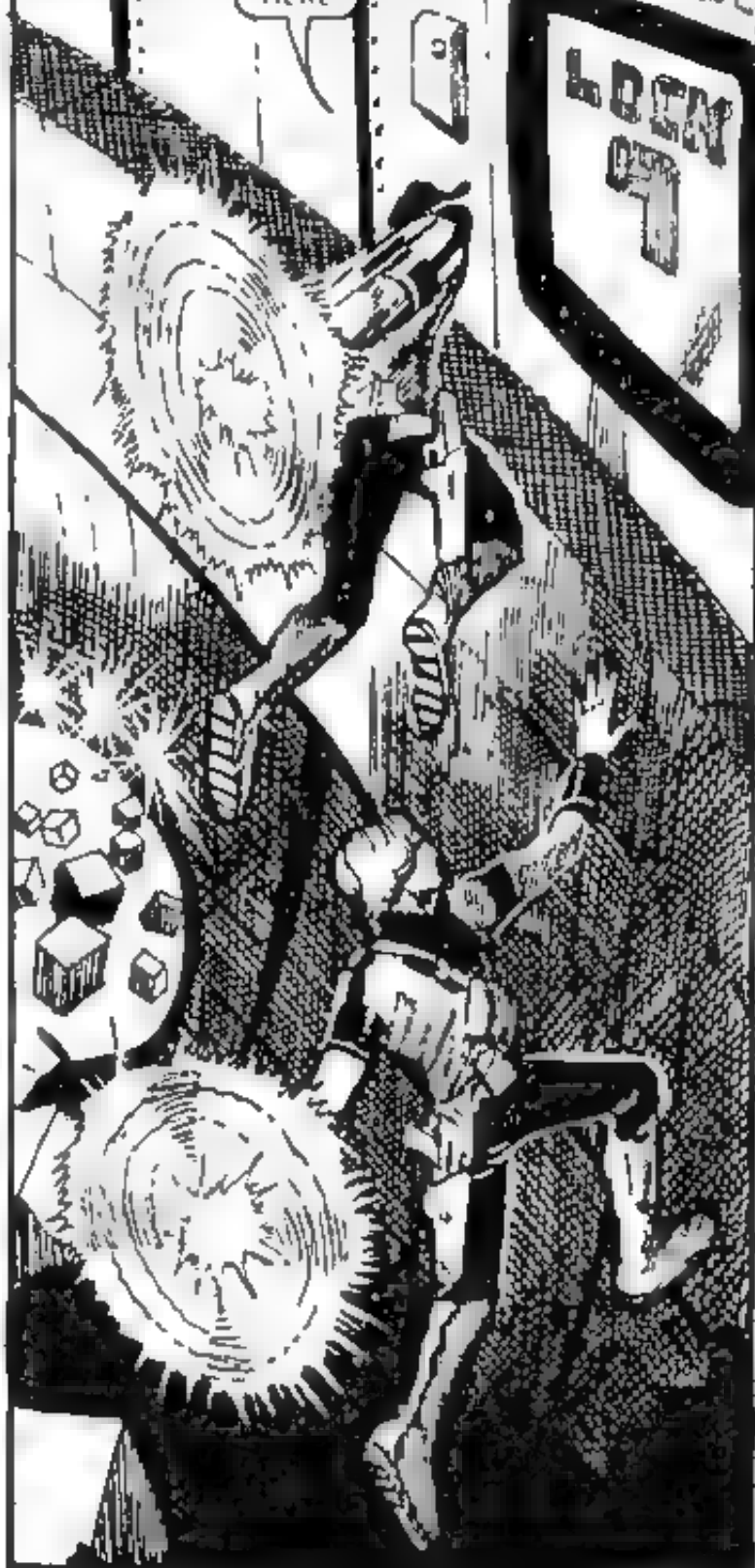
FOR SEVERAL HOURS THEY ROSE IN TOTAL DARKNESS





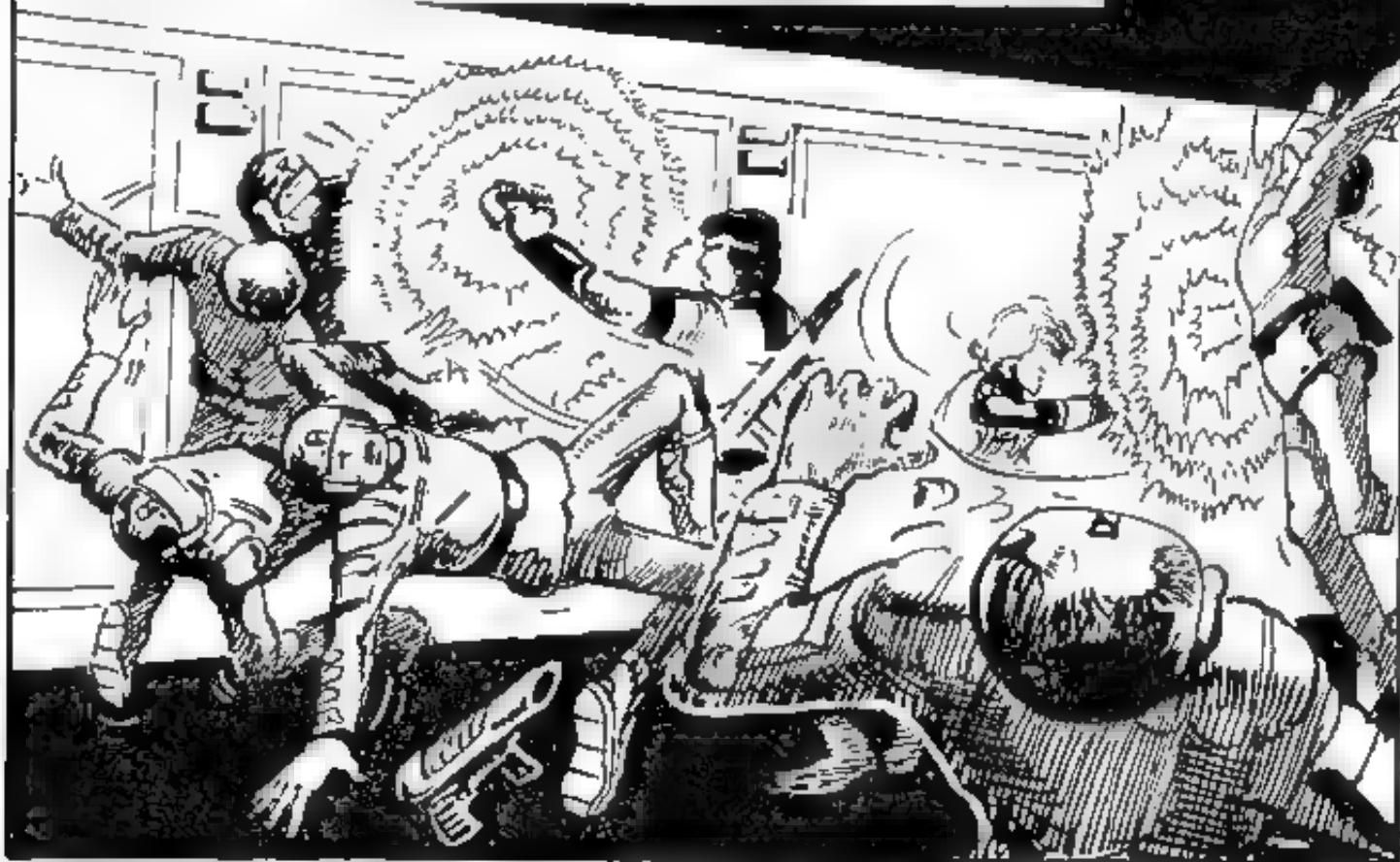
IN THE ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY STREAM THE DROGUES ACTED LIKE JETS LIFTING THEM OUT AND UPWARDS.

THERE'S AN INSPECTION HATCH UP HERE



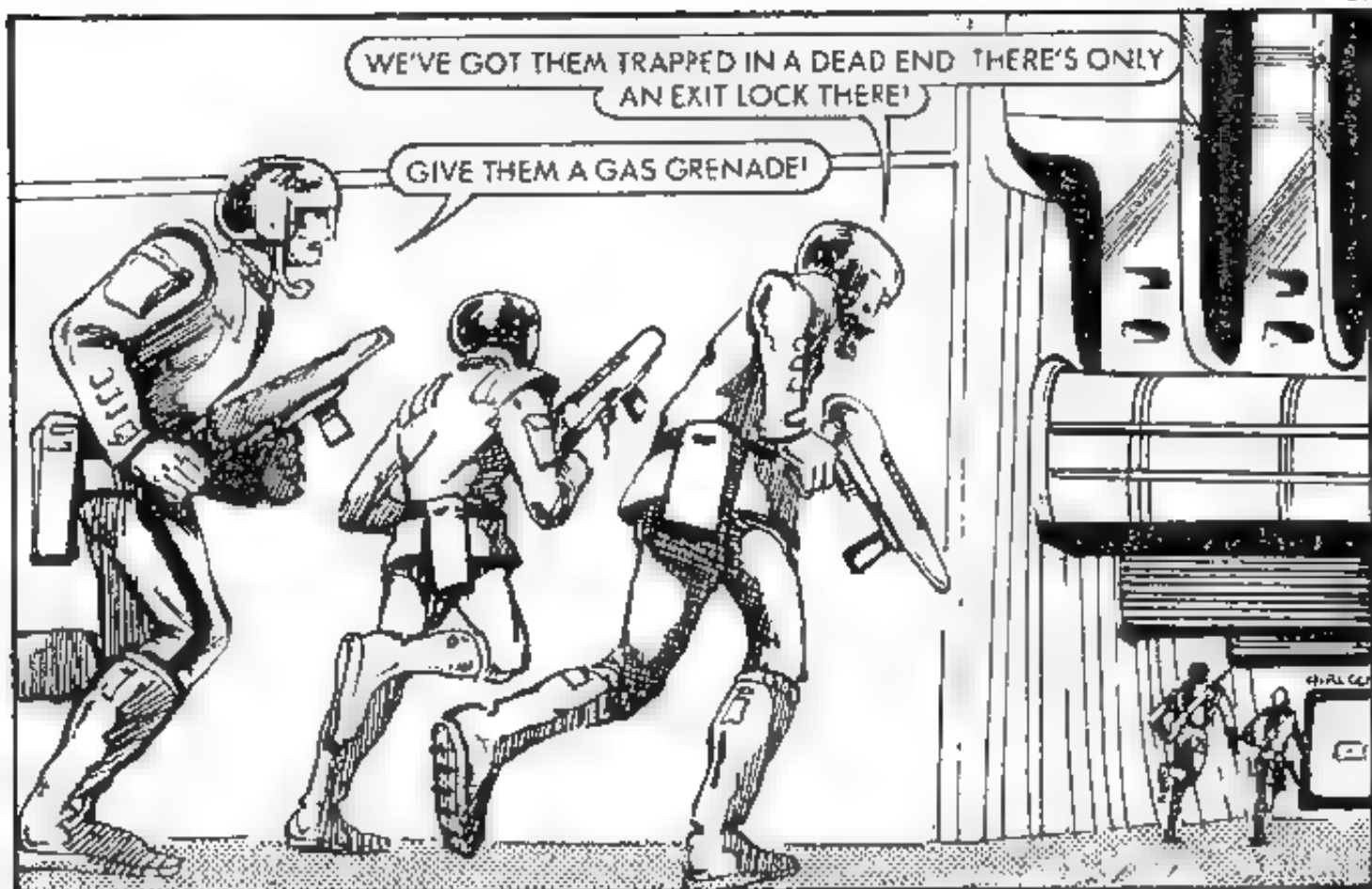


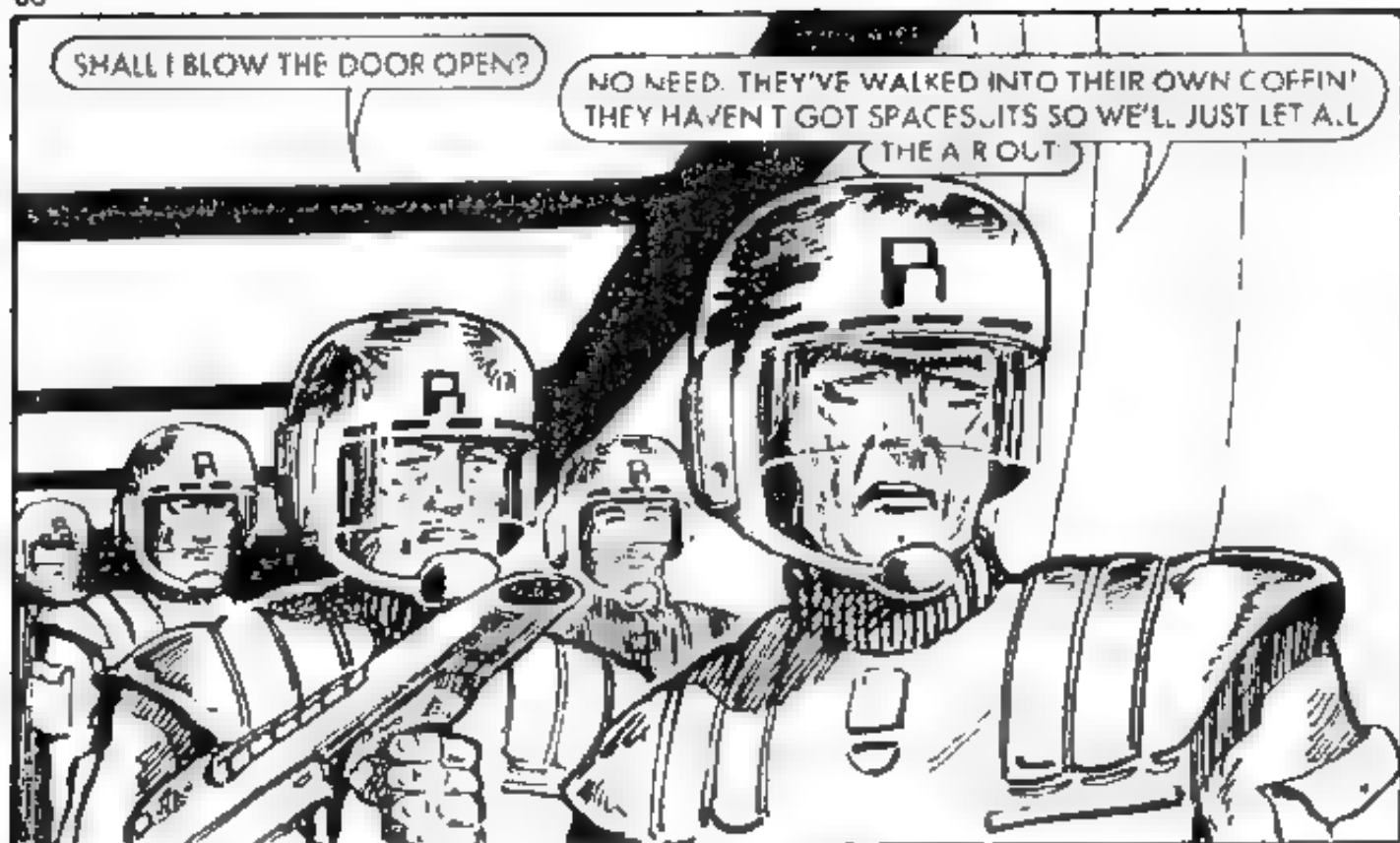
THE FORCE SHIELDS REPELLED ALL ENERGY, AND COULD BE USED LIKE CLUBS



THERE ARE MORE COMING!

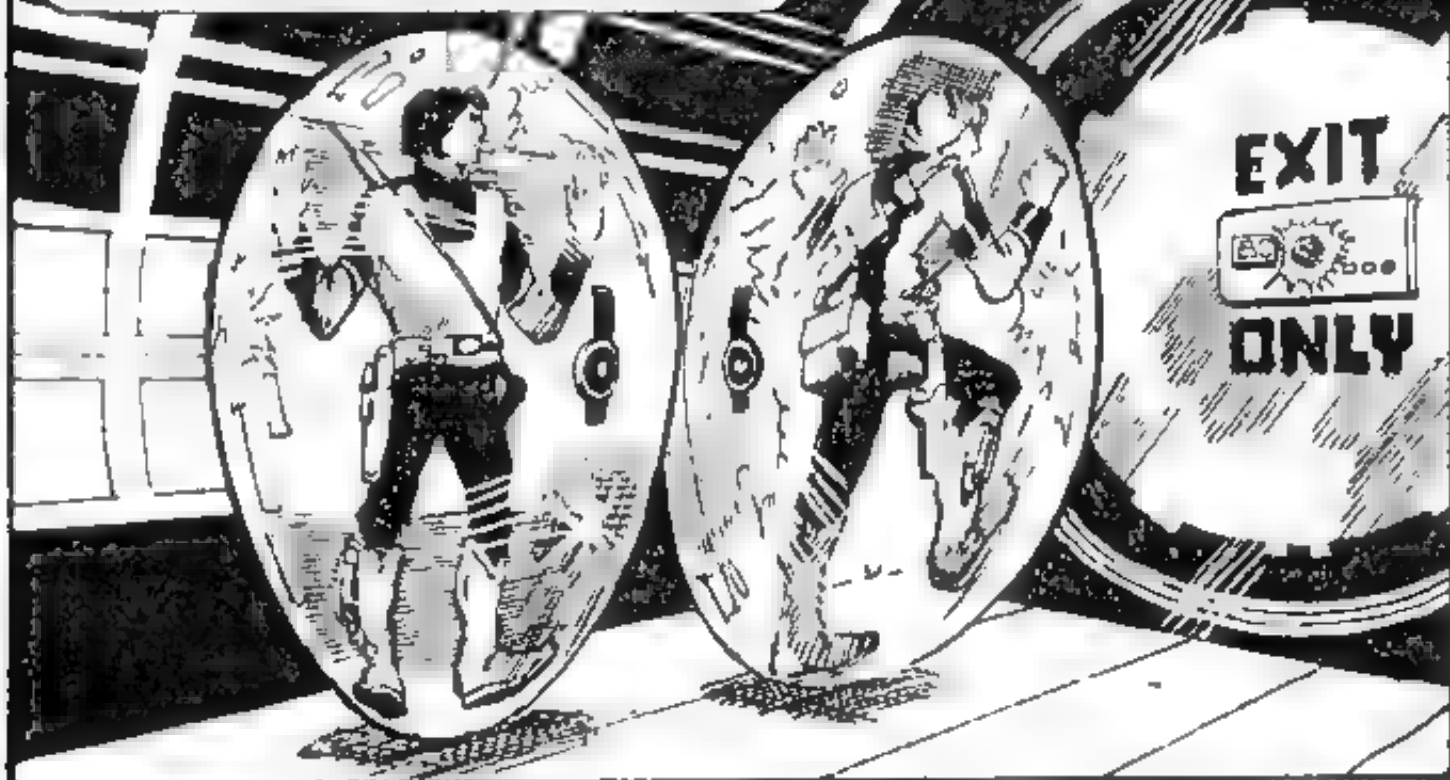




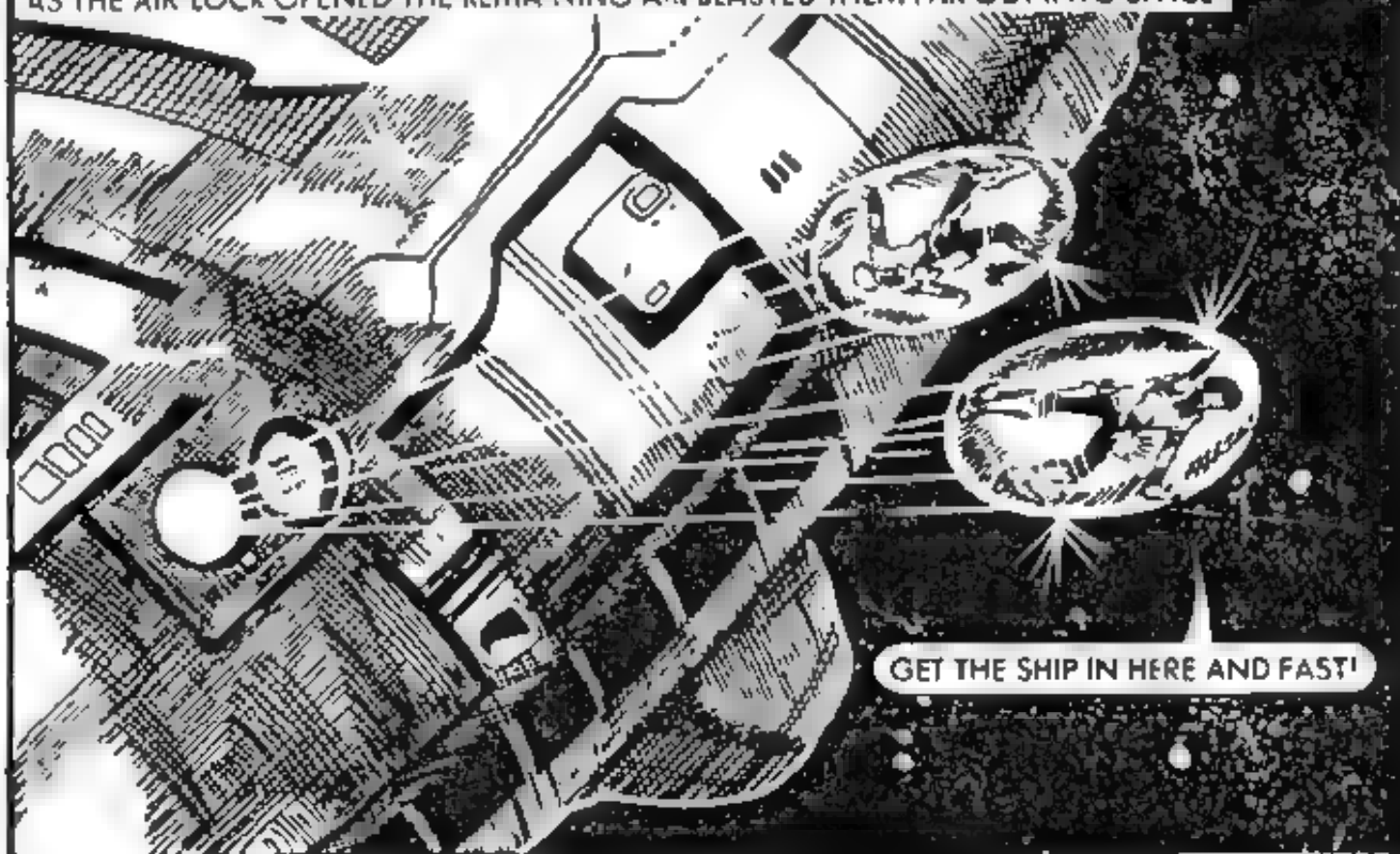


THE BAGS SELF SEALED AND THEN INFLATED AROUND THEM SETTING INTO A STEEL HARD SHELL

IF THAT LOCK DOESN'T OPEN WE'LL BE HELPLESS



AS THE AIR LOCK OPENED THE REMAINING AIR BLASTED THEM FAR OUT INTO SPACE



GET THE SHIP IN HERE AND FAST!



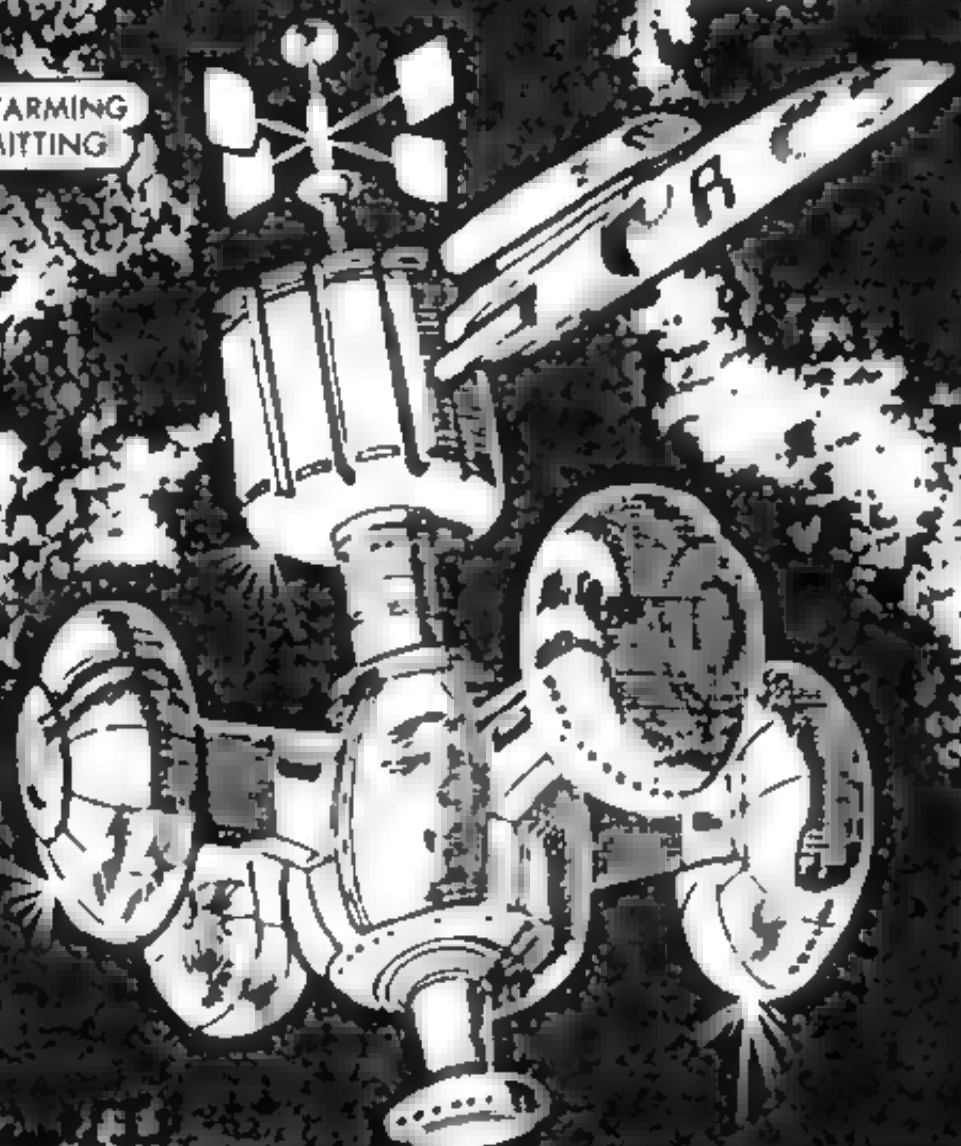


THE NEAREST IS THE CENT JRII XII
RELAY

MAXIMUM WARPI

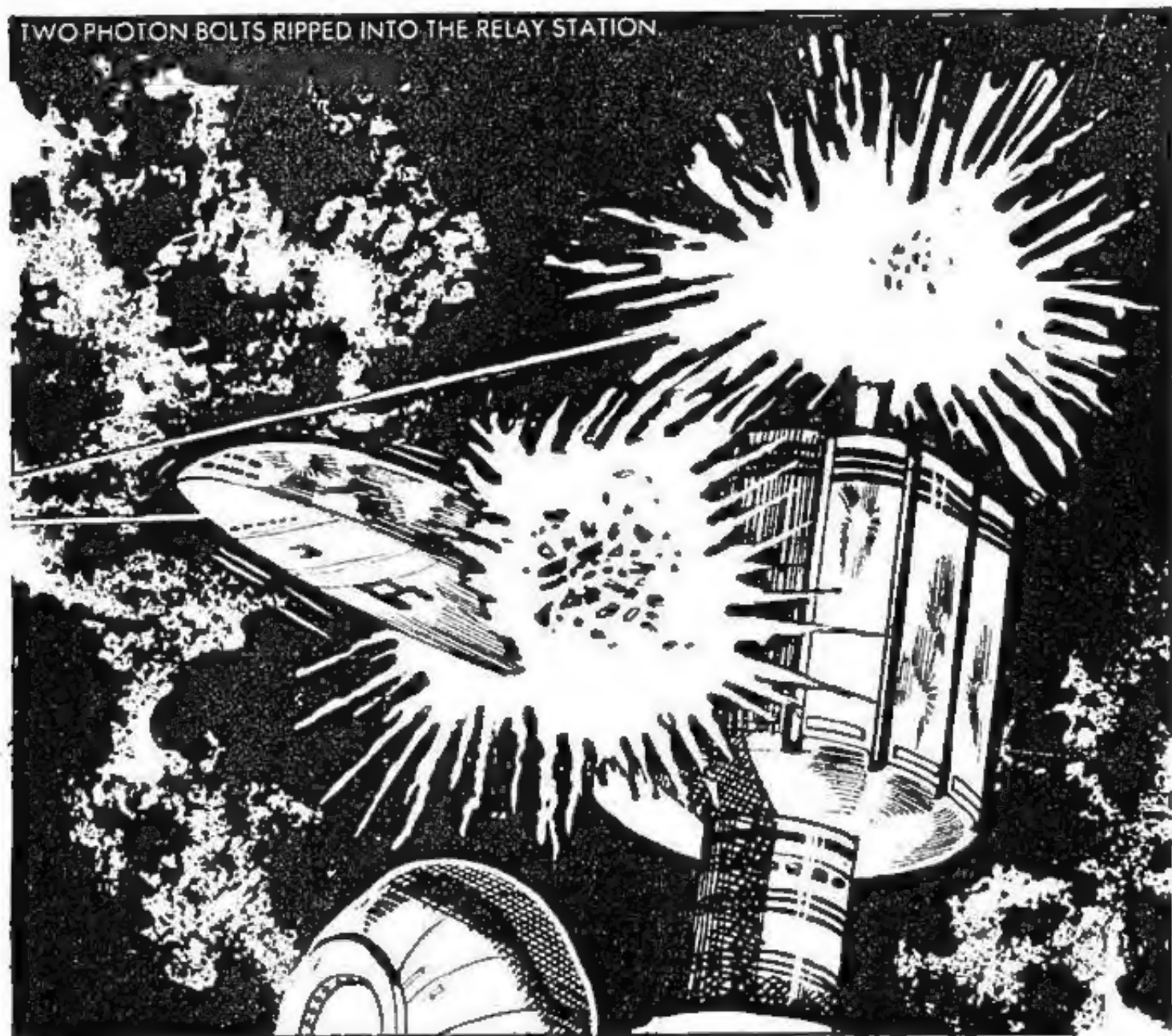
TWELVE HOURS LATER THEY SIGHTED THE GREAT RELAY TRANSMITTER.

THERE IT IS THEY'RE WARMING
UP TO START TRANSMITTING



FIRE GUNS! RELAY AERIAL AND SHIP!

TWO PHOTON BOLTS RIPPED INTO THE RELAY STATION



WHEN THE BLAST CLEARED THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE FREIGHTER OR AERIAL.

THAT'S THE END OF RANCORP'S GAME.
NOW WE'LL HAVE TO ROUND UP THE REST
OF THEM.

YES! AND I BET
THEY'LL BE SICK.

**NOW THAT YOU'VE READ
THIS**

STARBLAZER
SPACE ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 39



**DON'T
FORGET
THAT
THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE THIS
MONTH**

**IT'S ON SALE IN
YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!**

STARBLAZERS

IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE 38

Philadelphia

Baltimore

Delaware Bay

Washington D.C.

Chesapeake Bay

In July 1972, the Americans launched the first Earth Resources Technology Satellite, originally called ERTS, named Landsat. This satellite took high quality photos through different filters enabling man to study the available resources on Earth on a wide scale. The photograph here is the east coast of America showing Washington D.C. and Chesapeake Bay.